Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

C.A. Presidents' Meeting Slated for Oct *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 1
Latin American Bishops Meet in Lima *[Lima]* 1
Third Seminar for Cooperation, Peace Opens *[Lima]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Tours Pinar del Rio After Hurricane 2

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Conference of Churches Condemns Attacks in Haiti 3
Rights Group Forms Committee 4

Dominican Republic

Namphy Ousted in Bloodless Coup; Leaves Country 4
Seeks Political Asylum *[AFP]* 4
Arrives in Santo Domingo *[EFE]* 4
Issued Courtesy Visa *[Havana]* 4
Army on Alert *[EFE]* 5

Haiti

Soleil Reports Reaction To Church Attacks 5
Group Seeks 'Urgent' Action 6
Third Church Destroyed 6
Bishop Organizes Prayer Days 7
Radio Cacique Attacked for 3d Time in 1 Week 8
Youth Groups Calls for Government Resignation 8
Coup Reportedly Staged by Mid-Level Army Officers *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 8
Presidential Guard Involved *[AFP]* 8
Church Attacks Instrumental 9
Official Announcements of Namphy 'Resignation' 9
Enlisted Men Appoint Avril New Leader 9
Avril Reads Proclamation 10
Claims Power *[AFP]* 10
Leaders Justify Coup *[AFP]* 11
Army Demands Democracy *[AFP]* 11
New Government Makes Appeal for Calm 11
Capital Reported Calm *[EFE]* 12
Four Reported Killed *[AFP]* 12
Airport Closure Confirmed 12
Sylvio Claude Says Avril 'Must' Give Back Power 12
Communist Party Welcomes Coup; Seeks Dialogue *[AFP]* 13

Jamaica

Thousands Homeless; Death Toll Rises 13

Trinidad and Tobago

Group Seeks Prime Minister's Resignation 13

MEXICO

Hurricane Gilbert Causes Severe Damage, Death 14
60 Dead, 60 Missing 14
Country's Interpol Chief, Wife Found Dead *[EFE]* 15

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Arias Calls for Reagan, Castro Efforts for Peace *[Mexico City UNOMASUNO 12 Sep]* 16

El Salvador

New Duarte Treatment 'Will Not Interrupt' Work *[ACAN]* 16
Rey Prendes Group May Join Another Party *[EL DIARIO DE HOY 16 Sep]* 16
Rosa Chavez Condemns Violence at Demonstration *[ACAN]* 17
FMLN Announces 19 Sep Transportation Stoppage *[Venceremos]* 17
Army Countermeasure Plan *[ACAN]* 18
Militarization of Transport System Protested 18
Bombs Cut Power to Areas of San Salvador *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 18
50 Rebel Casualties in Morazan Fighting 18
Army Discovers FMLN Warehouse in Nejapa *[DIARIO LATINO 17 Sep]* 19
Correction to FMLN on Garrison Attack 19
Rebels Claim 541 Army Casualties 11-18 Sep *[Venceremos]* 19

Guatemala

Government Rejects Extraditions to U.S. *[ACAN]* 20
Reconciliation Panel Head: Dialogue Postponed *[EL GRAFICO 16 Sep]* 20
Government Examines Alleged UK Troop Harassment *[EL GRAFICO 16 Sep]* 20

Honduras

Government Deports 13 U.S. Protesters *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 21

Nicaragua

Ortega on Contra Talks, Nandaime Prisoners 21
RN Sets Conditions for 'Successful' Negotiations 25
Managua Police Ban Opposition Demonstration *[ACAN]* 25
Maj Wheelock on U.S. Policy, Contra Aid *[EL NUEVO DIARIO 16 Sep]* 26
Hurricane Gilbert Causes 'Considerable Damage' 27
Crops 'Seriously Damaged' 27

Panama

Noriega Denies 'Personal Problem' With U.S. *[DPA]* 28
On Peace With Costa Rica 28
On Elections 28
Officials Allege U.S. Violations of Airspace 29
Strikes, Agreement Over 13th Month Bonus 29
Government-FENASEP Pact *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 16 Sep]* 29
Government on Pact, Strike 30
Agreement Denied 31
Workers Reject Accord 31
Noriega, FENASEP Leaders Meet 31

State Council Supports Solis *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 18 Sep]* 32
State Council Resolution 32
Public Workers' Strike *[AFP]* 33
Balboa Port Workers Strike *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 16 Sep]* 33
Workers Arrested, School Seized *[DPA]* 33
Education Ministry Suspends 19 Sep Classes 34
Station Criticizes U.S. Use of 'Lies' 34
Columnist on Possible U.S. Military Action *[CRITICA 15 Sep]* 34
U.S. Presence 'Negates' Canal Neutrality *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 18 Sep]* 35
Canal Administrator's Actions Criticized *[MATUTINO 16 Sep]* 36
Republican Party Vice President Arrested *[San Jose]* 36
Charges Filed *[CRITICA 19 Sep]* 36
Republican Party Members Demonstrate at Meeting 37
Minister on Respect for Private Enterprise 37

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

World Bank Head Meets Alfonsin, Confirms Loans 38
Court Upholds Alfonsin, Caridi on Vercellotti *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 17 Sep]* 38
Caridi Orders Rico To Respond on Proclamation 38
Rico Refuses To Comply 38
Interior Ministry Communique on Strike Incidents 39
'Powerful Bomb' Destroys Electrical Tower 39
Drug Gang Leader Arrested in Cordoba 39

Bolivia

Planning Minister Sanchez de Lozada Resigns 40
Official Views Charges Regarding Cocaine Lab 40
Minister on U.S. Firm's Use of FAB Planes 40

Brazil

Sarney To Announce Debt Moratorium Lifting 21 Sep 40
Military 'Not Eager' To Warm Ties With USSR *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 18 Sep]* 41
New Plane Developed in Project With Argentina *[TELAM]* 41
'Record' August Trade Balance Surplus Reported 41

Chile

Liberal Group Mission To Oversee Plebiscite *[EFE]* 41
Ministry Spokesman Comments 41
Official Report on Voter Registration Issued 42
Economic Group Praises Pinochet's Policy *[EFE]* 42
Youths Involved in No-Vote Spots Detained, Beaten *[EFE]* 43
Humanist Party President Rejects New Coalition 43
Woman Killed in Santiago Shantytown Disturbance *[EFE]* 43
FPMR, Police Clash in Concepcion Reported 43

Colombia

Guerrillas Release Kidnapped Soldiers 44
Guerrillas To Announce Peace Counterproposal *[AFP]* 44
Violence Erupts in Tumaco; Curfew Imposed 44

Peru

All Demonstrations Banned in Lima for 60 Days 45
Ayacucho Residents Protest Economic Measures *[EFE]* 45
Authorities Allow Return of Japanese Fishermen *[Tokyo KYODO]* 45

C.A. Presidents' Meeting Slated for Oct

PA1609215688 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2139 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 16 Sep (REUTER)—The Central American presidents will meet in October in San Salvador, Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle announced when he returned from Costa Rica.

He explained that he met in San Jose with President Oscar Arias, who told him there is a consensus among the Central American presidents to meet in October in San Salvador, "bearing in mind Salvadoran President Duarte's delicate health." Duarte is suffering from terminal stomach cancer.

Carpio Nicolle, who attended a Central American vice presidents' meeting in Costa Rica, did not give further details on the summit. [passage omitted]

Latin American Bishops Meet in Lima

PY1709162388 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The second Latin American bishops meeting, which is being held in Lima, is demanding sacrifice and effort from everyone without exception to solve the serious problems that still persist in many countries. The bishops deplored the gap between poor and rich countries, the situation of abandoned children, terrorist violence, and the corruption caused by drug trafficking.

The foreign debt has aggravated Latin American problems and has deprived the region from any hopes of improving its economic situation. Our people cherish an aspiration for improvement, they have confidence, and they have sound moral values and a strong will. This statement is part of a report issued by the bishops, who are holding the meeting, which is analyzing the situation of the region, its problems and possibilities.

The document was released by Argentine Archbishop (Italo Severino De Estefano), who is president of the Latin American social pastoral department of the Latin American bishops council.

Third Seminar for Cooperation, Peace Opens

PY1509144388 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Peruvian Foreign Ministry Secretary General Harry Belevan has opened the Third Seminar for Cooperation for Peace in South America in the 21st Century.

The first session of the seminar, which is being held at a downtown building in Lima and which is being attended by Foreign Ministry officials of 11 Latin American countries, addressed among other issues, regional security, strategic doctrine, and a security policy in Latin America.

Cuba

Castro Tours Pinar del Rio After Hurricane

FL1609204688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Sep 88

["Summary" of President Fidel Castro's tour in areas affected by hurricane Gilbert of Pinar del Rio Municipality on 14 September—recorded]

[Text] [Narrator] As it was reported, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro toured some areas of Pinar del Rio Municipality last Wednesday. He showed interest in the damages caused by hurricane Gilbert and what measures were being taken to prevent more damages and to counteract the effects of the rains and winds in the area. The tour began in the predawn hours at the Provincial Defense Council where Fidel Ramos, first secretary of the PCC in the province, and other provincial leaders briefed Fidel on the situation. The commander in chief later went to La Coloma where he visited the fishery processing center and spoke extensively with workers and residents of the area on some of their needs and their possible solution.

[Begin recording] [Castro seen surrounded by a group of people chanting: Fidel, Fidel] [Castro] What are the main problems here?

[Unidentified speaker] The job problem, there are very little jobs for women. There are many women with children here who do not have even a place to live.

[Castro] Do you have a child care center?

[Speaker] There is one, but many mothers have to pay other people to take care of their children.

[Castro] How big is the child care center?

[Speaker] It is very small.

[Castro] What is its capacity?

[Speaker] It has six classrooms.

[Second speaker] There is room for only 100 children.

[Castro] How many [words indistinct] here?

[Speaker] [Words indistinct]

[Castro] You do not have many clinics here.

[Speaker] No, just one. Actually, it is a medical post.

[Castro] How many residents?

[Speaker] Quite a few, [words indistinct].

[Words indistinct of people speaking at the same time]

[Castro] Do you have a family doctor here?

[Speaker] No, we do not.

[Castro] How can this housing situation be solved?

[Speaker] The people are willing to build houses and are willing to respond. Everyone knows this.

[Unidentified man in uniform] All this area used to get flooded. This used to be an area covered by the sea. It was drained to build the factory and part of the [words indistinct]. Now, commander a project has to be built to [words indistinct]. There has never been a drainage system; there is no sewage system.

[Castro] I saw that it was better with hurricane Kate although at that time [words indistinct] large floodings. [Words indistinct] the road was later built and it helped a great deal. But I would like to know what kinds of needs you have here and what we can do.

[Third speaker] The fundamental problem is housing.

[Castro] I want to write down some ideas. One of the things which we could bring here is the family doctor program. This would help a lot because you would have—I do not know—about six doctors. All the residents, all the children would have the services of a doctor living next to them. A house would have to built [words indistinct]. What else could be done here? What would you need to triple the number of houses here?

[Speaker] Construction material.

[Castro] Couldn't we develop a program here for the construction of, say, 180 houses with the participation of the people?

[Speaker] Of course, and even more.

[Castro] What else would you need? Would you need a new child care center?

[Speaker] Yes.

[Third speaker] Room for 200 more children is needed.

[Castro] Why don't we plan to develop a housing program to provide services to the area and so that the mothers can take the children there. If we analyze the importance of this port, work center, and what these people contribute to the economy, we can justify making an effort. There isn't even a sugar plant which contributes the way this [word indistinct] contributes. Would it be difficult to elevate to 120 here? [passage indistinct] We could also bring the people that are living over there with problems of Las Canas. We could also clear that area.

[Speaker] For a beach resort?

[Castro] That's right, a beach for vacationing.

[Speaker] That's right.

[Castro] Do you live here?

[Woman crying] I live in a little house which is underwater.

[Castro] Yes, we know about that. We are going to speed up a construction program there at the [word indistinct].

[Woman] Good, my dear.

[Castro] That way you won't have to spend many more years here.

[Woman] Here, let me give you a kiss my dear. [Woman kisses Castro on the cheek] On behalf of all my little children. [She kisses him again] Good, my dear.

[Castro] So, we have decided to build 180 houses there. Part of that will be dedicated to you. I do not think that it will be resolved in one year. However, we are going to do very serious planning. The provincial party is going to let us know what it needs. We are also going to give jobs to people who will build. What would we need here to [word indistinct].

[Speaker] Dump some sand [words indistinct] because it's too dirty, too many weeds, clean it.

[Castro] Yes, clean it, fix it up.

[Several People speaking at the same time]

[Castro] Can we combine the two things to make this a beach area for the province? We need to resolve [words indistinct] and use the land in that [word indistinct] facility.

[Narrator] On his way back to the city of Pinar del Rio, Fidel held a meeting with provincial party and government leaders and with those responsible for the construction sector. During the meeting, the plan for measures and projects to be undertaken in the zone he visited, and other development plans for the province were discussed.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Conference of Churches Condemns Attacks in Haiti

FL1609225488 Bridgetown CANA in English 2000 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Sept 15, CANA—The Caribbean Conference of Churches [CCC] on Thursday condemned attacks on churches in Haiti and called on Caribbean and North American Government's to adopt the "firmest possible" position against Haiti's military regime.

In a statement released in Barbados, the CCC described the attack and slaying of at least nine people at the church of St John Bosco in Port-au-Prince and the burning of another church earlier this week as a "cold-blooded cruelty" which was "shocking even by the brutal standards of Haitian repression".

"We condemn without reservation these acts of violence and the failure of the military government to prevent them. The inaction of the government security forces can only be interpreted as collusion with the method of terrorising the Haitian population into silence," the CCC said.

The CCC also expressed concern about the "continuous indecisive attitude of most Caribbean governments in not condemning the illegal military government in Haiti" and called on regional and North American governments to "adopt the firmest possible position against the Haitian military regime and to support the efforts of the Haitian people to achieve a government of their choice."

The conference assured the Haitian people of its continued solidarity and prayers at this time, and encouraged them to "remain steadfast" in their struggle.

The CCC asserted that it was "not insignificant" that the attacks had occurred in the parish of Father Jean-Betrand Aristide who had "been an inspiration to the Haitian poor and especially the youth in their struggle for a better and more decent life."

Some 76 people were wounded in Sunday's attack, after which armed men broke into a hospital in the capital and tried to attack one of the victims. Hospital staff prevented the men from getting to the pregnant woman.

A Radio Haiti report said that men, beleived to be ex-members of the tonton-macoutes secret police set up by former dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, were among those who took part in the massacre on Sunday. They were thought to be after the woman because of a public outcry over her attack.

A statement by the military government on Tuesday deplored the attack and promised to catch the four men and women who went on state television and radio to claim responsibility for it.

But Bishop William Romelus of the southern town of Jeremie, Haiti's most outspoken church leader, on Wednesday accused the government of complicity in the violence.

"Why did they wait so long to delpore these actions, all this was done in broad daylight", he said, and he wondered whether the government did not have the means to arrest the culprits on the same day that they went to the media.

Rights Group Forms Committee

FL1609225588 Bridgetown CANA in English 2207 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Sept. 16, CANA—Caribbean Rights, which groups seven human rights bodies, on Friday announced the formation of a regional action committee on Haiti. Caribbean Rights said that the decision stemmed from recent deaths and violence in Haiti.

"The burning of churches and slaughter of worshippers in Haiti earlier this week, demonstrates how far from civilized standards that situation has fallen...." said Caribbean rights.

Nearly a dozen people were reported killed and scores injured when a group, believed to include members of the former secret police, set fire to one church.

Caribbean Rights said that the authorities in Haiti have shown no inclination to prosecute those responsible and to prevent the violence.

"They bear the ultimate responsibility for this violence having destroyed the constitutional process last November by preventing elections," said Caribbean Rights.

"Caribbean Rights, through its national affiliates, together with the Caribbean Conference of Churches and the Caribbean Congress of Labor, are forming a regional action committee on Haiti to promote the creation of a constitutional process in Haiti," the group added.

Dominican Republic

Namphy Ousted in Bloodless Coup; Leaves Country

Seeks Political Asylum

PA1809051088 Paris AFP in Spanish 0438 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 18 Sep (AFP)—General Henri Namphy sought political asylum from the Dominican Embassy in Port-au-Prince on Saturday night and Dominican authorities granted it, a ranking Dominican Foreign Ministry official who chose to remain anonymous reported in Santo Domingo.

According to the official, the Dominican Government also granted political asylum to Franck Romain, mayor of Port-au-Prince and a figure in the Duvalier regime, who arrived at the embassy shortly before Namphy.

Several sources in Port-au-Prince stated that Gen Namphy was at the airport ready to leave at 2300 GMT.

According to other witnesses reached by telephone from Caracas, at 2315 GMT an aircraft departed Port-au-Prince airport and may have been carrying Gen Namphy.

Arrives in Santo Domingo

PA1809132188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1246 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 18 Sep (EFE)—Ousted Lieutenant General Henri Namphy received political asylum from the Dominican Government and arrived in Santo Domingo this morning.

Dominican Foreign Ministry sources told EFE that the government "authorized General Namphy's entry into the country."

The Foreign Ministry's protocol personnel were at the Santo Domingo Airport for the arrival of Namphy, who was the Haitian president until his overthrow last night.

Meanwhile, the three National Police members who were guarding the Haitian Embassy in Santo Domingo told EFE that there was no Haitian official at the embassy today, Sunday.

It is believed that Namphy and those accompanying him will be lodged at the same hotel where former Haitian President Leslie Manigat stayed for a few days in June when he was overthrown by Namphy's Government Junta.

Issued Courtesy Visa

FL1909130388 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1140 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Report by Bolivar Miranda, journalist from Radio Mil in Santo Domingo during "Hot off the Press" section of "Revista de la Manana"—live]

[Text] Deposed Haitian President General Henri Namphy arrived in the Dominican Republic yesterday on a private flight. He was accompanied by his wife and a daughter. His status was not immediately available due to contradictory reports issued by authorities.

Retired General Manuel Lachapelle Suero, director of the Department of Investigations, (DNI), said that Namphy had received political asylum in the Dominican Republic while the Foreign Secretariat had reported that the former Haitian president was given a courtesy visa.

Namphy was overthrown on Saturday night by a military coup and he was replaced by a junta. Colonel Prosper Avril was appointed new president and Colonel John-Claude Paul was named Army chief.

Namphy, his wife Gabrielle, and his daughter [words indistinct]. It was also reported that Mayor Franck Romain is also staying in the hotel. He arrived in the country with Namphy and his family.

The Foreign Secretariat said that the government has given Namphy a courtesy visa to enter the Dominican Republic. The secretariat also said they did not know

how long Namphy and his family will remain in Santo Domingo nor did they know the final destination of Namphy, his family, or Romain.

For his part Lachapelle Suero said that Namphy is in the Dominican Republic as a political exile; he has political asylum.

In a interview with reporters after a 20-minute meeting with the deposed president, Lachapelle Suero said that Namphy did not want to make statements to the press.

Namphy and his family are in rooms 518, 520, and 522 on the fifth floor of the hotel and are under strict security. Hotel security members will not allow any reporters near the rooms of the deposed leader. Reporters from national and international media have tried and are trying unsuccessfully to speak to Namphy.

The executive manager of the hotel, Mr Ramon Sanchez Gabinero told reporters that ex-President Namphy told him he did not want to speak to journalists. Namphy asked him to tell journalists that he had nothing to say to them because he is a military man, not a politician.

The deposed Haitian president, his family, and Romain arrived at the Herrera domestic airport on a private plane flown by two Haitian officials at 0745 yesterday. They were received by a commission of government officials and immediately transferred to the hotel.

It was reported that Namphy arrived in the country dressed as a civilian and without baggage.

On 20 June, Namphy ordered deposed President Leslie Manigat expelled to the Dominican Republic after a coup thwarted the first attempt at democracy and a constitutional government after 29 years of dictatorship under the Duvalier family.

Namphy arrived at the same airport used by Manigat after 5 days in exile. He's also staying in the same hotel Manigat and his family used during their stay in Santo Domingo. Manigat currently lives in Venezuela. He was the first democratic president of Haiti after the 18 January elections which allowed him to assume power on 7 February.

Army on Alert

PA1809154388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1449 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 18 Sep (EFE)—Dominican Army troops at the Haitian border are at a state of alert following the overthrow of General Henri Namphy as president of the Haitian National Government Council.

Sources from the Dominican Armed Forces Secretariat told EFE that "Everything is quiet" at the Haitian border, but that Dominican soldiers are at a state of alert as a precaution as well as to prevent undocumented Haitians from entering Dominican territory.

"These measures are normal in such cases. Our men routinely keep on the alert when something happens in that neighboring country," the official source said.

Namphy, who was overthrown by General Prosper Avril and Colonel Jean-Claude Paul last night, arrived today in the Dominican Republic with his wife Gabrielle and daughter Melissa as a refugee.

Nothing is known in the Dominican Republic about the situation in Haiti. However, a Dominican Foreign Secretariat source told EFE that Port-au-Prince Mayor Franck Romain has taken refuge at the Dominican Embassy following his ouster as mayor last night following the coup.

Haiti

Soleil Reports Reaction To Church Attacks

FL1609180288 [Editorial Report] Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole on 15 September continues to carry reaction to the incidents at St. Jean Bosco and Immaculate Conception Churches and at Radio Soleil and Radio Cacique radio stations over the period 11-13 September in Port-au-Prince. In its 1100 GMT broadcast, Radio Soleil reports on a statement by the Patriotic Unitarian Bloc—BIP—and the National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements—Komakom—in which they call "for a great, cooperative getting together of the Haitian people, who need freedom and justice" and in which they also declare that they "support everyone in the efforts they may make to obtain justice."

In the same cast, Soleil cites the Coordinating Body of People's Organizations of the Artibonite—Copol—as saying that it is not surprised by the incidents because "only by means of crime and corruption can the repressive authorities stay in power." Copol tells the Haitian people to take heart and stand by Father Aristide. The Haitian Medical Association in turn condemns the "massacre" of 11 September and deplores maneuvers to obstruct the help its members are giving the wounded. Also condemning the incidents, the Protestant Federation of Haiti "demands that immediate appropriate measures be taken to put an end to such criminal acts." Another organization, Comme Il Faut, blames the "macoutes" and asks the people "to muster their strength by cooperating with all serious popular organizations" to defend themselves and the country against "the train of death."

Meanwhile, a communique from Caritas Haiti says it is waiting for government action, noting: "We do not want to believe that the authorities are going to continue to sit there and watch criminals take over the country."

In a later broadcast at 1830 GMT, Radio Soleil reports on a press release from the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti, MIDH, urging the government to act; otherwise, "Its authority and credibility are going to be further eroded." Noting that violence begets violence, MIDH says that the Armed Forces should not be the Army of a small group so that it will have the "moral authority necessary to seek, together with those in favor of dialogue and consensus, a negotiated solution to the dramatic crisis existing in society today."

Two other items in the 1830 GMT broadcast note reaction from Rockefeller Guerre, president of the Union of Democratic Patriots, and from the Association of Misyon Alfa Teachers and Program Participants of Port-au-Prince, AMAP. Condemning the killings, Guerre, in a recorded statement, says: "I am asking the men calling for dialogue if they still believe in dialogue with those murderers. I am asking those passengers of good will whether they are going to remain seated on that criminal train." AMAP asks all popular organizations within and outside the church "to set up effective popular vigilance brigades to cope with the actions of the evildoers."

Group Seeks 'Urgent' Action

FL1609173788 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1030 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpts] In a letter addressed to the Episcopal Conference of Haiti and to the Salesian Order, the three-member Committee for Democratic Accord [CED], made up of the MIDH [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti], the PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party], and the National Concerted Action Front [FNC], expressed its concern over the bloody incidents at St. Jean Bosco and its solidarity with the Haitian prelates. [passage omitted]

The CED shares the indignation of all the clergy in the face of all these blasphemous acts. From this bloody escalation of sacrilege must come renewed energy. The CED says it is urgent that action be taken by all, together, before it is too late.

The CED states that the battle must continue until a new society is established in Haiti—a society in which human rights are respected and in which all believers will have the right to profess their faith and publicly practice it as a community with full security.

This is our conviction; we will do everything we can to have things change here, says the letter.

Please be assured that we, like the nation, are not being taken in by grotesque divisionary maneuvers. We know that your unity within the church is stronger than ever. A blow has been struck at you by the champions of the status quo because of the way you are applying the church's resolution from Vatican II, the preferential option for the poor in an unjust world.

Like you, who daily make huge sacrifices in order to walk by the side of God's people in their destitution, and like your faithful, immolated and mutilated on that red and black Sunday of 11 September, we too are willing to make the same sacrifice for the triumph of democracy.

Before the entire nation, the CED reaffirms its faith in the values of democracy, and forcefully reiterates its conviction that only unity will lead us, hand in hand with all men of good will, along the path of change, freedom, and justice in this land of Haiti.

The letter is signed by Marc L. Bazin for MIDH, Louis Dejoie of PAIN, and Gerard Gourgue of the FNC.

Third Church Destroyed

FL1609223788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] The same subject has been the big news since Sunday: the macoutes who are continuing to attack the church. A third church—the third in a week—has been destroyed: the church in Fabias, in Marchand Dessalines was destroyed yesterday. Our correspondent in Gonaives will give us the details:

[Correspondent Jean Bouchereau Joseph] Operation "Destroy the House of God,"and Operation "Fight the Priests Preaching in Favor of the Poor," which began Sunday in Port-au-Prince, was continued yesterday in Fabias, a rural section of Marchand Dessalines.

Yesterday afternoon, in Fabias, many people fighting the priests who preach in favor of the poor destroyed the chapel in Fabias; it was totally destroyed it. Why? Because a five-person delegation from Marchand Dessalines had gone to Fabias, where they were going to hold a meeting with the parents of children in Fabias regarding school, which is to begin soon. When this delegation arrived in Fabias around 0800 yesterday, many parents told them that several policemen, section chiefs, and assistant chiefs had encircled the chapel and that they were carrying many weapons, sticks, and machetes, and that they were waiting for the delegation. When the delegation showed up, they found much damage done to the chapel. It was totally destroyed.

We have the account of what happened yesterday in Fabias given to us by a member of the delegation, who was present.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified woman, speaking in accented Creole] [Words indistinct] made up of three pastoral agents, a priest, and myself. We arrived without incident around 0800 and after (?some 15 minutes), a few of the parents came to inform us that there were many policemen and a section chief surrounding the chapel, (?and that) they were carrying weapons, knives, and clubs. (?The) section chief and the assistant section chief were accompanying the police. We counted more than 60 people in all. So when the time came for the meeting, we went to the chapel and we found a delegation of policemen and section chiefs standing out front. Many of them looked like they were drunk. They let us enter the chapel, which no one else could enter because of the section chiefs and the police. The public was attentively following what was going on.

We questioned the section chiefs and the police. They answered that there would be no meeting with parents without orders from the Army. We further said very clearly: We need the school so that our children [words indistinct]. They said if the people of Fabias need to pray, they (?must) go into the fields. They asked us who was in charge of the chapel. We answered: Father Yves is. They said there will be no more chapel here in Fabias. You must go into the fields to pray. A young person asked the section chief if he could say a few words to the parents. They let him say a couple of words, but they did not allow a meeting outside.

Since we saw that the public was very angry, and we did not want the situation to deteriorate, we were obliged to leave (?right away).

[Reporter] Can you tell us why you went to Fabias?

[Woman] Yes. More than 300 children had registered for school, and we had gone to Fabias to meet with their parents, to prepare for the school year.

[Reporter] Thus you were never able to hold the meeting yesterday?

[Woman] No, they did not permit it.

[Reporter] We have also heard rumors that the people who prevented you from meeting had destroyed the Fabias chapel. Is that true?

[Woman] Yes, it's true. Before we left, we had people come tell us that they had begun destroying the chapel.

[Reporter] Thank you very much. [end recording]

That was yesterday in Fabias, where the enemies of God, the people who are against all the priests who are struggling (?alongside) the poor, destroyed the Fabias Chapel when a delegation tried to hold a meeting with parents of school children. The people are furious in Fabias, where all these macoutes have decided to undertake a true Operation "Destroy the House of the Lord."

This is Jean Bouchereau Joseph, Radio Soleil, Gonaives.

Bishop Organizes Prayer Days

FL1609225988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The chain of reaction to and indignation over the events of 11 and 12 September is growing.

Msgr Verrier, the bishop of Les Cayes, extends his sympathy to all who were victims or who were affected by the St. Jean Bosco hurricane as well as those affected by Hurricane Gilbert.

[Begin Verrier recording] When the eye is hit, the nose, too, is affected. [passage omitted] As a Haitian whose umbilical cord is connected to that of all other fellow Haitians, as a Christian who feels that his faith should not be left dormant, and as a bishop bonded to all the other bishops and to all of God's people, I cannot fail to say a word about the other, unparalleled, hurricane that has devastated the hearts of all true children of Haiti, trampled their dignity, violated human rights, and sullied Haiti's reputation worldwide—the hurricane that hit St. Jean Bosco Church on 11 September. Worse than hurricane Gilbert, this hurricane did not cause a flood of water but gave rise instead to a flood of blood and tears. [passage omitted]

These people took on a heavy responsibility by doing this! They are not afraid to profane! Sacrilege does not frighten them! [passage omitted] Gilbert came by, struck once, and moved on, but the evildoers declared that this was just the tip of the iceberg. They even appeared on government television, to show everyone that nothing could be done to them. [passage omitted]

Friends, how far is this going to go? Has Haiti become a jungle, where the stronger devours the weaker? [passage omitted]

There is no one to provide security. Evil actions are continuing, and nothing stops them—even though these actions pain government authorities, even though they extend their sympathy and their condolences!

In view of all these things, I felt it was my duty to express my solidarity with all my brothers and sisters who are suffering.

Faithful of Les Cayes, do not forget: Our own greatest force is prayer. Jesus said: Ask and ye shall be given. Seek and ye shall find. Knock at the door and it will be opened to you. [passage omitted] For 40 days, we will ask, we will seek, we will knock. Every day it will be a different parish. We will begin on Sunday, 18 September, with the cathedral parish in Les Cayes. I will send a list to each parish head, so that they will organize prayers every day in their parish. [passage omitted]

I wanted to say to you that I am here and with you. Take courage. Hold on. God will not abandon us. The Lord Jesus Christ, he who is all powerful, he who is the only king, the only chief—and Mary, the mother of the Haitian people—simply must heed our prayers. [end recording]

Radio Cacique Attacked for 3d Time in 1 Week

FL1609224688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Radio Cacique is having great difficulty. It was attacked once again, after it was attacked last Sunday and Tuesday. Some radio equipment was destroyed and stolen. Last night, it was hit once more. This time rocks were thrown.

We interviewed a member of Cacique's personnel, a witness. He says that Caicique personnel have not as of yet been able to establish how much is missing, or the monetary value of the damages, but, he says, further damage was done.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] Of course, as you know, after they first hit us on Sunday, they hit us again on Tuesday. Apparently they came last night to throw rocks. Of course they didn't stay because we would (?have tangled with them) last night! [passage omitted]

[Reporter] I see lots of equipment and parts scattered all over the floor. Are you guys taking inventory? Or was this the way they left things?

[Speaker] They left things the way you see them there.

[Reporter] So, they broke in Tuesday and took equipment?

[Speaker] Yes, definitely. They carted stuff away. They carted away the best parts.

[Reporter] So there are special parts that they took?

[Speaker] Oh yes, they took many reels of tape. And they took cassette decks [preceding two words in English]—stuff to use [words indistinct]. Well, you know, stuff that a radio station uses. [passage omitted] They came last night. Of course, [words indistinct] identify them. They came by and threw rocks. They even fired two shots into the air.

[Reporter] How long did they throw rocks?

[Speaker] Well, I myself wasn't here, but not for long because if they had stayed a long time, we would have tangled with them. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Youth Groups Calls for Government Resignation

FL1609190288 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1030 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] A youth organization, the Ornadej [National Organization for the Defense of the Young], is demanding the resignation of the military government. According to Ornadej, the government headed by General Henri Namphy must resign for four reasons.

First, to stop the bloodshed that has never stopped since 26 April 1986 [demonstration fired upon in front of Fort Dimanche]. Second, this government has no vision whatsoever of development. Third, this government has no social vision.

After 3 years in power, no hospitals or schools have been built in Haiti. The government adult literacy agency is shut down. The government is thus saying "no" to the eradication of illiteracy, notes Ornadej.

The fourth reason the government should resign is that its policy toward popular demands is retrograde, demagogic, irresponsible, and criminal.

To save the country from the chaos and anarchy into which the dominant classes have plunged it, Ornadej calls on the Haitian people to seize political power first and then economic power.

Coup Reportedly Staged by Mid-Level Army Officers

PA1809031488 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 17 Sep (REUTER)—An apparent coup d'etat against General Henri Namphy is taking place, and shooting has continued in the capital, diplomatic sources and witnesses reported.

A diplomatic source said that Namphy, who also seized power through a coup on 19 June, would be taken out of the country aboard an aircraft. Sources close to the government said they believed the coup was staged by mid-level Army officers.

A Haitian source who picked up conversations in the National Palace with a portable radio said that the soldiers were discussing how to take Namphy out of Haiti in an aircraft.

The shooting, which began at 1645 (2045 GMT), resumed at 2200 GMT, indicating that the coup has not ended.

Presidential Guard Involved

PA1809191388 Paris AFP in Spanish 1734 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 18 Sep (AFP)—A reliable source in this capital has reported that the sergeants and rank-and-file members of the Haitian Presidential Guard as well as

the garrisons of the Dessalines Battalion instigated the military coup that overthrew General Henri Namphy. General Prosper Avril's appointment as head of state is the result of a compromise agreement reached by senior officers, sergeants, and rebel troops, the source said.

Church Attacks Instrumental

FL1809213388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1625 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] This new coup, which comes 3 months after the last one, occurred after a very heated week in Haiti following a series of serious incidents during which a group of men wearing red armbands and armed with pointed bars, machetes, revolvers, killed more than a dozen people and seriously wounded many others, among them a woman 8 months pregnant. [passage omitted]

Many people declared that they saw the hand of General Namphy implicated in that massacre, especially after the statements he had made at City Hall on 8 September. [passage omitted]

These last few days, Frank Romain [Port-au-Prince mayor reported to have requested asylum at Dominican Embassy along with Namphy] appeared to be the general's principal collaborator. Just yesterday they had visited (Lakou Brea) together, where they had put their followers out into the streets to continue making the same kind of threats.

Official Announcements of Namphy 'Resignation'

FL1809212288 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1706 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] The Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] General Headquarters informs the public that following his resignation as president of the military government, Lieutenant General Henri Namphy accompanied by his wife and daughter left Haiti aboard an FADH plane on this 18th day of September 1988. The plane landed at 0750 at Herrera Airport in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Port-au-Prince, 18 September 1988.

That was a press release from the FADH General Headquarters.

Enlisted Men Appoint Avril New Leader

FL1809210588 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1915 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Proclamation read by unidentified soldier at the National Palace in Port- au-Prince 18 September — recorded]

[Excerpt] Haitian Armed Forces [FADH], General Headquarters of the Presidential Guard in Port-au-Prince, Republic of Haiti.

We the noncommissioned officers and enlisted men of the Presidential Guard declare on this 17 September 1988 that since Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, FADH, failed to satisfy the essential desires of the Haitian people in general and of the enlisted men of the FADH in particular, he is hereby removed from the office of president of the military government.

We offer, as justification for our action, our desire to restore the prestige of Haiti, sullied by so many actions that have revolted the sensibilities of the Haitian people and of the international community, as well as those of the enlisted men of the FADH, who can no longer hold their heads high.

In order to pursue the ideals of the Haitian people, we want, as a replacement, one of the most honest officers in the FADH—a man who is familiar with the enlisted man's problems and who merits consideration because of his rectitude and sense of duty and patriotism. We want to appoint Brigadier General Prosper Avril, FADH, with the rank of lieutenant general in the FADH.

Drawn up at the General Headquarters of the Presidential Guard on September 1988.

Signed: Sergeant Joseph Hebreux, FADH; Adjutant (Delius Joseph), FADH; Staff Sergeant (Paul Jean), FADH, I.D. number 24872; Sergeant (Jean Eddy Pascal), FADH, 35850; Corporal (Johnny Julien), 42d company; Adjutant (Gustave Christian), FADH; Adjutant (Maxene Joseph), FADH; sic [as heard] (Noel Dagneau), FADH; sic (Charles Roosevelt), FADH, 42d company, 37863; sic (Jean Gabriel), FADH, 42d company, I.D. number 39739; sic (Louis Faustin), FADH; sic (Morisseau Abin), FADH, 42d company; (Clersaint Vanel), FADH, 35th company; (Jean-Felix, Richard), FADH; (Philippe Leclerc), FADH; (Francis Baptiste), FADH, 46th company, I.D. number 40979; (Nelson Ruimaille), FADH; Corporal (Franke Morcy), 42d company, FADH, I.D. number 36799; sic (Eugene Cola), 35th company, FADH, 38799; Sergeant (Dolne Jean Vilassonne), FADH, 42d company, 35845; sic (Miltil Luxes), FADH, 34th company, I.D. number 35382; (Fritzmond Francois), FADH, 40366; (Saintmise Adrien), FADH, 42d company, I.D. number 37025; (Semelus Innocent), FADH, 33744; Corporal (Gary St Juste), 47th company, 37186; (Stenio Clervin), FADH, 37811; (Absolue Deries), FADH, 35053; (Desamours Joseph), FADH, 40436; (Joseph D. Francois), FADH, 35581; (Jean Enock Duval), FADH, 39927; (Marcelin Clervisse), 43624; (Julio Sylvain), FADH, 38313; (Lenere Fortune), FADH, 36309; (Joseph M. Mochasse), FADH, 39737; (Emile Augustin), FADH, 39588; (Jean Joassaint, "Toto"), FADH, 46th company, 48990; (Frenel Jean-Baptiste), FADH, 35th company, I.D. number 43648. [passage omitted]

Avril Reads Proclamation

FL1809160988 Port-au-Prince RTNH Television in French 1915 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Proclamation by Brigadier General Prosper Avril read from the National Palace in Port-au-Prince over a national radio and television hookup; video shows Colonel John-Claude Paul standing to the right of Avril—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. Republic of Haiti.

Proclamation: People of Haiti, on this 17th day of September 1988, the Presidential Guard has just made an important decision.

The noncommissioned officers and soldiers of this elite corps say that they are sickened and disheartened, disgusted, by the way the country has been governed since 7 February 1988 [date as heard], after the coup that took place on the night of 19 June 1988. Because of this they have been forced to once again take action—this time carrying to power Brigadier General Prosper Avril, FADH, whom they themselves have decided to make president, with the rank of lieutenant general in the FADH.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, and with the objective of saving the country from anarchy and chaos, I find myself forced to accept the presidency of the military government.

At this juncture, difficult and dangerous for the nation's future, the FADH are called upon to exhibit discipline and altruism in order to save this country for which we all have a love almost carnal.

We ask the population to remain calm and to go about its business normally.

To the friendly powers and international institutions to which the Republic of Haiti is bound by treaties, accords, and conventions, I give the formal assurance that I will respect all of Haiti's committments.

We dream of a Haiti where freedom flourishes, where human rights are guaranteed; a country where dialogue is the order of the day, with a view to a national reconciliation, and where the economic stagnation in which Haiti is floundering will disappear for the greatest good of the greatest number.

Drawn up at the National Palace in Port-au-Prince on 17 September 1988, in the 185th year of independence.

Thank you. [applause] [Band strikes up first the presidential hymn and then the national anthem]

Claims Power

PA1809190588 Paris AFP in Spanish 1627 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Santo Domingo, 18 Sep (AFP)—General Prosper Avril, head of the Haitian Presidential Guard—who on Saturday seized power in Haiti and forced General Henri Namphy to seek refuge in Santo Domingo on Sunday—was closely linked with President for Life Jean-Claude Duvalier and, for awhile, was considered Namphy's "right arm." [passage omitted]

Gen Prosper Avril appeared on television on Sunday accompanied only by noncommissioned officers and soldiers to announce that he had just seized power. Immediately afterward, he declared himself open to dialogue and promised to respect freedom and human rights.

According to Sergeant Joseph Hebreux of the Presidential Guard who presented him on television, Avril is no longer a brigadier general but a lieutenant general. Last year he was only a colonel, and, as such, negotiated the departure of dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier and his replacement by a National Government Council (CNG) led by Gen Namphy.

Questioned over the telephone from Washington, opposition leader Paul Latortue—candidate for the Senate during the frustrated December elections and professor of economics at Santo Domingo University—described Gen Avril as "Namphy's right arm" and linked him closely to "Baby Doc." Avril served as Duvalier's treasurer until 1984, when he lost his position as a result of a personal conflict with Roger Lafontaine, head of the "Tonton Macoutes."

According to Latortue, the Army has been divided since the bloody events on 11 September, when groups of civilians linked to the Port-au-Prince municipality attacked parishioners at the Don Bosco Church, killing 12 people and injuring about 70, without the police intervening. The parish priest of the Don Bosco Church is Father Aristide, the most politically involved figure within the Haitian Catholic Church. [passage omitted]

Last night sporadic gunfire was heard in the capital city until approximately 0600 this morning (1000 GMT); however, no source has mentioned any victims. According to sources reached by telephone, it was almost always a case of shots being fired into the air to keep the population from going out into the streets, or to keep groups of people from storming the homes of Namphy and the mayor of Port-au-Prince, for whom a particular hatred has been felt since the Don Bosco attack. [passage omitted]

Leaders Justify Coup

PA1809233588 Paris AFP in Spanish 2203 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Report by Dominique Levanti]

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 18 Sep (AFP)—The sergeants and rank-and-file of the 1,000-man Haitian presidential guard appeared today as the perpetrators of the bloodless coup d'etat in Haiti that took place Saturday night and Sunday morning and that overthrew General Henri Namphy, placing General Prosper Avril, 50—appointed Lieutenant General on this occasion—in his place. [passage omitted]

Radio Metropole announced that the two homes owned by Gen Namphy in Port-au-Prince, one in the north and another in the high part of the city, were sacked. The homes owned by his brother, Joseph "Joe" Namphy, a warehouse belonging to him, the home of Frank Romain in Delmas (eastern part of the city), and the home belonging to Romain's mother-in-law were also sacked.

Aside from these incidents, the rest of the country and the capital are calm and the provincial cities contacted on the telephone by AFP received news of the coup with indifference. [passage omitted]

Sergeant Joseph Heubreux, leader of the movement of NCO's, was the first to appear on television referring specifically to the situation, saying "The Haitian Armed Forces could no longer walk with its head up high," noting that the behavior of the authors of the coup d'etat was "justified" because of the acts recently committed.

Gen Avril, in his proclamation read after Sgt Heubreux', also cited the discontent, envisaging a "country where freedom flourishes, where human rights are guaranteed, and where dialogue is the basis of national reconciliation."

During the reading of the proclamation, Gen Avril was surrounded by a majority of NCO's and troops and only a few officers. Among them were Generals Carl Michel Nicolas, Army commander in chief; his aide, General Wilthan Lherisson; and Colonel Jean-Claude Paul, commander of the Dessalines Battalion, whose NCO's and troops joined the movement.

Gen Avril, who held the post of Army inspector general, an administrative post, is a 50-year-old officer who made his career in the presidential guard and who, despite the reticence of some units, was finally elected by the NCO's as the most capable officer, in view of his vast political military experience, to satisfy the people's demands.

Gen Avril telephoned the U.S. and French Embassies, principal interlocutors in Haiti, to assure them of the continuity of the country's policy in matters of international commitments.

Before this, at 0630, Foreign Minister General Herard Abraham took Gen Namphy, his wife, and his daughter to the Port-au-Prince's civilian airport, where they boarded a Haitian military aircraft bound for Santo Domingo.

The rest of Namphy's family and former Mayor Frank Romain's are at the Dominican Embassy, together with two officers close to Gen Namphy, Lieutenant Colonel Henri Robert Marc Charles and Henri Robert Augustin. [passage omitted]

Army Demands Democracy

PA1909004888 Paris AFP in Spanish 2356 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 18 Sept (AFP)—According to well-informed military sources in Port-au-Prince today, the sergeants and rank-and-file of the Haitian presidential guard responsible for staging a coup d'etat against General Namphy and placing General Prosper Avril in power have demanded the resumption of a democratic process in Haiti.

The soldiers' leader and spokesman, Sergeant Joseph Hebreux, read a 19-point memorandum in which the Army demands "the resumption of the democratic process" through presidential elections in Haiti.

The same sources also reported that both Sgt Hebreux and Gen Avril were in the process of forming a mainly civilian cabinet, and might announce their choices tonight in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

In his first speech from the presidential palace, televised this morning at 0200, Hebreux said:

"We feel our conduct is justified by our desire to elevate the Haitian people's prestige, which has been debased by many actions that have angered the consciences of the Haitians, the international public, and the soldiers of the Haitian Armed Forces, who could no longer walk with their heads held high."

New Government Makes Appeal for Calm

FL1809222388 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 2049 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Monitored in progress]

[Text]...(?Republic) launches an appeal for calm and calls for discipline and order respecting individual rights and freedoms. It stresses the imperative need to avoid all revenge—the acts of pillaging and destruction that risk compromising the nation's efforts to be reconciled with itself and to render concrete the nation's most profound and legitimate aspirations.

To this end, the government of the Republic is counting on the understanding, the help, and the cooperation of all sectors of the nation.

From the National Palace, this 18th day of September 1988.

Capital Reported Calm

PA1809162288 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1543 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Santo Domingo, 18 Sep (EFE)—The Haitian capital is calm following the overthrow of General Henri Namphy in a military coup staged by General Prosper Avril and Colonel Jean-Claude Paul last night.

The report was made by Haitian newsman Jorge Louis in a telephone conversation from Port-au-Prince with Radio Mil in Santo Domingo.

According to Louis, only in the San Juan Bosco District have residents reportedly gone out to look for the group of people who on Sunday entered St. Jean Bosco Church, killed five people, and wounded a number of parishioners during mass.

According to Haitian newsmen, there is calm in the rest of the country, as well as along the border with the Dominican Republic. This was reported from a Dominican city near Jimani.

Namphy arrived as a refugee in Santo Domingo at 0815 (1215 GMT) today along with his wife Gabrielle and daughter Melissa.

Four Reported Killed

PA1809163888 Paris AFP in Spanish 1602 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 18 Sep (AFP)—According to Radio Metropole, a privately owned radio station in Port-au-Prince, four people were killed today by a crowd and the body of one of them was burned.

The four apparently were supporters of former Port-au-Prince Mayor Franck Romain—who has taken refuge in the Dominican Embassy—and are said to have participated in the killings at the St. Jean Bosco Church on 11 September. A total of 12 people were killed and at least 70 were wounded in that incident. According to the same source, one of the persons slain today was killed by a military man.

So far, lynchings have taken place only in La Saline District, where the aforementioned killing took place and where two Catholic churches were torched.

Airport Closure Confirmed

FL1809211288 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1808 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Monitored in progress]

[Text]...around the airport, the traffic, as regards tap-taps [colorfully-decorated vans used for public transportation] of which there are practically none going to the airport, since today is Sunday. Besides, the factories don't work on Sunday.

Also, the international airport, which in principle should have been open today, is closed to air traffic. There are no incoming or outgoing flights. This news has just been confirmed.

We went and talked to military personnel at the airport, and they confirmed to us that the airport is indeed closed. They said they hope that by tomorrow things will be back to normal and air traffic with other countries can resume.

Thus the airport is closed for the time being. There are no incoming or outgoing flights, and air traffic will be resumed normally tomorrow, according to the military with whom we spoke at Mais Gate International Airport.

Sylvio Claude Says Avril 'Must' Give Back Power

FL1809223488 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in Creole 2049 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Interview with Sylvio Claude, leader of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party, PDCH, by unidentified reporter; date, place not given, monitored in progress—recorded]

[Text] [Claude]...have to react because if you don't react certain things are done, well, like Dessalines said: After what I have just done in the south, if Rigaud doesn't react, he is not human. [5-second break in reception because of power outage] I say that the Haitian people must mobilize and not accept this. We said it during a press conference on 12 February [1986]. It was precisely those gentlemen—Avril and company—who had seized power. I said back then: Don't let those men stay in power for more than a month because they are Duvalierists. Even without Duvalier, without Jean-Claude Duvalier, they are the same criminals, the same evil men. Well, the entire political sector was against me back then on this. Well, they got caught in a trap. And now everyone is sorry.

I am saying it again today. The Haitian political class must quickly get together to force Mr Avril to return power to whoever is entitled to it constitutionally.

[Reporter] And that is the position of the PDCH?

[Claude] Yes, the PDCH.

Communist Party Welcomes Coup; Seeks Dialogue

PA1809181088 Paris AFP in Spanish 1718 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 18 Sep (AFP)—The United Party of Haitian Communists (PUCH) was the first Haitian political party to express satisfaction today over the military coup that overthrew General Henri Namphy last night.

In statements made in Port-au-Prince, Max Bourjolly, the PUCH's second-ranking leader, emphasized the "dialogue" offer made by General Prosper Avril, the new Haitian strongman. "We hope this ray of hope will become reality," he said. Bourjolly also expressed his party's willingness to participate in the dialogue Avril proposes.

Jamaica

Thousands Homeless; Death Toll Rises

FL1609233288 Bridgetown CANA in English 2304 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sept 16, CANA—Thirty six deaths have now been confirmed by the authorities in Jamaica following Hurricane Gilbert's onslought last Monday. Tens of thousands of people remained in either government-designated shelters or with friends or relatives on Friday.

Minister of Health Ken Baugh urged those who are able to do so to leave the shelters and try to repair at least part of their property. He warned that crowded conditions in some shelters with limited sanitary facilities would lead to the outbreak of communicable disease.

Trinidad and Tobago

Group Seeks Prime Minister's Resignation

FL1609232488 Bridgetown CANA in English 2118 GMT 15 Sep 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Sept 15, CANA—A constituency group of Trinidad and Tobago's ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) has called for the resignation of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and fresh general elections in three months time. A meeting of about 160 members of the Barataria/San Juan area issued a resolution at the end of an August 29 meeting.

The resolution states: "Be it resolved that this assembly of NAR registered members, supporters, adn activists of the Barataria/San Juan Constituency council meeting of August 29 calling for the resignation of political leader and Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson and that fresh elections be held within 90 days".

However, NAR parliamentarian for the area, Ken Butcher, says that the meeting of the constituency members was not an official meeting of the council and the group had thus issued an unauthorised press release. Butcher pointed out that his father, Ulric Butcher, was the public relations officer for the constituency and he had not authorised the release of such a statement.

"The persons who sent this release are executive members of the council but they did not attend the council meeting last week. If they choose to hold a meeting of their own, they are free to do so," Butcher said.

The resolution follows one issued by the Port-of-Spain north constituency group two weeks ago which led to the council being called in by the NAR executive. From this meeting, a pledge of loyalty was issued by attending members while other members refused to make such a pledge.

NAR Chairman Senator Herbert Atwell had insisted that the resolution was not a sign of disenchantment within the ranks of the party but trouble caused by a small group of troublemakers.

The NAR executive has scheduled a series of meetings with constituency groups ahead of the October 23 annual conference.

Hurricane Gilbert Causes Severe Damage, Death

PA1709031288 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0205 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Hurricane Gilbert arrived in Mexico tonight. It reached the coasts of Tamaulipas State with winds between 190 and 225 km per hour. All the Tamaulipas airports were closed, and the residents of coastal areas were evacuated. The strong winds and heavy rains accompanying Hurricane Gilbert are lashing Mexicos's northern coast and forced the disruption of traffic on some roads and in some towns in Tamaulipas.

Hurricane Gilbert returns to Mexico after having caused severe damage in the Yucatan Peninsula. People in Tamaulipas are aware of what happened in Yucatan and are very frightened. [passage omitted]

Hurricane Gilbert caused the death of at least 12 people in Yucatan, and that figure could increase. [passage omitted] Eight people were killed in Cancun, and the hotel area suffered great damage, as did telephone communications, which remain cut off.

Hurricane Gilbert left over 1,000 homeless in Campeche State. The most affected towns there are Candelaria, Tenabo, Escarcega, Talquini, and Champoton. Telephone communications with Campeche have been restored, however. First aid teams traveled to southeastern Mexico to help the victims. The victims are receiving food, medicine, and clothes. [passage omitted]

Closed roads, entire streets and neighborhoods affected by floods, persons rescued from cars trapped in flooded streets, a cameraman struck by lightning, and a rained out Independence Day parade are the results of the heavy rains that began earlier this morning in Nuevo Leon State. The rains are a preview of Hurricane Gilbert, which is expected to hit northeastern Mexico tonight. The Federal Highway Police warned people in Nuevo Leon State not to drive on the roads leading to Tamaulipas State because some roads have already been closed to prevent tragic accidents. Federal, state, and municipal authorities implemented security measures, including first aid teams located along various roads and in areas that could be affected by floods during the next 48 hours.

According to a report from the Monterrey Red and Green Cross, a landslide in San Pedro Garza Garcia, Nuevo Leon State yesterday caused property damage of 400 million pesos, killed 4 people, and injured 20.

60 Dead, 60 Missing

PA1809042488 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0133 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Abel Magana reporting from Monterrey]

[Text] Thousands of people affected, an undetermined number of victims—including volunteers who died saving others—trucks dragged by currents, hundreds of passengers stranded, highways cut off, and communications interrupted—these were Hurricane Gilbert's final blows to the states of Nuevo Leon and Coahuila. Torrential rains and winds of over 100 miles per hour hit several municipalities in Nuevo Leon before midnight. Rivers overflowed and streams turned into ravaging currents of mud that cut off highways and destroyed everything in their path. Monterrey, Nuevo Leon's capital, is suffering the impact of the rains because the Santa Catarina River, which divides it, has overflowed. Nuevo Leon Governor Jorge Trevino assessed the damage caused by Gilbert, which has now turned to rain:

[Begin recording] [Trevino] So far, our estimates indicate that 60 persons have been killed, 60 are missing, and over 20,000 persons have been affected by the flood. Electricity has been cut off in some areas. Since there is no electricity, pumping stations for drinking water do not work; therefore, over half the homes in the city are without drinking water. The gas lines for domestic use are for natural gas instead of liquid propane. These are underground lines. The supply of gas has been cut off. So, in many areas there is no potable water, electricity, or gas. Roads and some bridges have been damaged. The Saltillo and Laredo Highways have been cut off because of mudslides. The Colombia Highway was closed due to flooding.

As for the rest, rescue efforts and shelters are working. Supplies are adequate.

[Reporter] Governor, the figures you mentioned indicate 60 persons were killed and 60 are missing.

[Trevino] Yes. So far this is what we have reported. The number of victims may be much higher. Between 25,000 and 35,000 persons have been affected.

[Reporter] The 60 persons who died have been identified. Did all of them die in the unfortunate bus accidents?

[Trevino] No. No. Some died because their homes were located along the edge of the river banks. Water levels in some areas rose 12 meters. River levels have never been that high before in this region. For instance, in Monterrey, the water currents were recorded at almost 12,000 cubic meters per second. So the currents swept away everything in their path. Some houses located on the edges of the river banks, near the high areas of the river banks, were swept away. Although the committee [not further indentified] was set up 48 hours before this happened, and people were warned, some did not believe it. The last major flooding occurred here in 1939. [end recording]

Hurricane Gilbert, the strongest of this century, reached Coahuila too where it caused road closings. The area was left with just one road to Torreon. Coahuila Governor Eliseo Mendoza said that stretch of road will have to be reopened to restore communications to Mexico City. He said there were four victims of the flooding in this area, including some Red Cross staffers.

Country's Interpol Chief, Wife Found Dead

PA1909043588 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0356 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Sep (EFE)—Florentino Ventura Gutierrez, chief of Interpol in Mexico and a director of the Mexican Federal Judicial Police (PFJ), was found dead in Mexico City with a bullet wound to the head.

The PFJ today reported they also found the bodies of his wife, Maria Cira Villanueva, and Maria Olga Trevino, a friend of the couple, beside Ventura Gutierrez' body. The two women also had bullet wounds.

Olga Trevino's husband, Elias Orozco Salazar, reported the three deaths to the police authorities and said Ventura Gutierrez killed the two women and then committed suicide in his presence.

The witness explained that Ventura Gutierrez shot Cira Villanueva after an angry argument with her, whereas the second woman was killed when she tried to mediate in the PFJ director's dispute with his wife.

The Mexican authorities have the witness in custody because "There are certain contradictions in his statement," and they have begun an investigation into the three deaths.

Ventura Gutierrez has led many campaigns against drug trafficking in Mexico, and important seizures and drug traffickers' arrests were achieved during these operations.

The PFJ director also was the liaison officer between the Mexican Police and Interpol in operations which the two organizations carried out in Mexico, particularly against drug trafficking.

Costa Rica

Arias Calls for Reagan, Castro Efforts for Peace

PA1609135488 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 12 Sep 88 pp 1, 19

["Part I" of report on interview with President Oscar Arias by UNOMASUNO reporter Gonzalo Martinez Maestre in San Jose on 11 September]

[Excerpt] San Jose, 11 September—President Oscar Arias told UNOMASUNO that as long as the United States and the Socialist bloc do not get their hands out of Central American conflicts, there cannot be peace.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner said he has made personal appeals to Ronald Reagan and "the big Socialist community family" through Fidel Castro for the two rival superpowers to get out of the region and allow "a halt to killings on Central American battlefields."

Arias downplayed the role of the Contadora and Support Groups to that of simple supporters of his peace plan, and he maintained that if Central America is left alone, "common sense will prevail over foolishness, and very soon we will solve our conflicts at the negotiating table."

Interviewed at the Presidential House, Arias said he asked Reagan for his help in attaining peace by using his "great influence" over the Nicaraguan "contras." As for Fidel Castro, Arias said he met him in Quito. "I told him if he was truly willing to help attain peace, he should exert his influence on the Salvadoran and Guatemalan guerrillas," Arias stated.

However, Arias seemed very optimistic about his appeals to the Cuban leader when he stated: "The truth is that Fidel Castro has obviously been a revolutionary since 1959, a firm believer that the Cuban revolution should be exported to Latin American countries."

Arias added: "I think Fidel Castro also exerts a great influence on the Nicaraguan Government. The Socialist community is a huge family, and it does not matter whether relations with the USSR are direct or through Fidel Castro. The fact is—because he is such an important political figure—that if Castro wanted to help Central Americans live in peace, he could do so." [passage omitted]

El Salvador

New Duarte Treatment 'Will Not Interrupt' Work

PA1709170688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1556 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 17 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Dr Jose Luis Saca, one of the Salvadoran doctors attending Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte, told ACAN-EFE that Duarte has begun a new treatment to counteract his stomach and liver cancer.

Saca said that on Thursday Duarte began the third cycle of chemotherapy with a drug called "5-F Uracilo," which is an antitumor drug, presents few toxic side effects, and will be applied in small doses at night.

The doctor gave assurances that the drug will be applied at night so that it will not interfere with the president's functions. He also said that the treatment will not present side effects except for "a little nausea." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Communication and Culture Minister Roberto Viera gave assurances that the president's treatment "will not interrupt his work as head of state."

"President Duarte will stay in touch with national problems during the day," the government spokesman said. [passage omitted]

Dr Saca explained that Duarte's ailment "cannot be medically cured," but he added that the president is "in stable condition. There have been no specific symptoms that show that he is losing the battle."

"The medical examinations we made 15 days ago," Saca said, "show that he is basically in stable condition; in cancers of this kind, the mere fact that the patient's condition does not worsen is a positive sign."

Saca denied that President Duarte was in a coma last month when there was a drop in white blood cells as a result of the chemotherapy treatment. [passage omitted]

Saca said that next month Duarte will go to Washington's Walter Reed Hospital for new tests. However, the doctor did not give an exact date.

Rey Prendes Group May Join Another Party

PA1709140388 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 16 Sep 88 p 3

[Text] According to Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, leader of the dissident PDC [Christian Democratic Party] faction, a group of his supporters—the Authentic Christian Democratic Movement (MADC)—could join another legally established political party to participate in the 1989 presidential elections.

Asked about the formation of a new party, the MADC leader said that creating a new political party would take a long time, but that if the procedure is expedited, the new party could be formed by January next year.

However, Rey Prendes said, "we could reach an agreement with a legally established party such as the PAR [Renovation Action Party], the POP [Popular Orientation Party], the Merecen [Stable Centrist Republican Movement], or the Democratic Action Party. This could even include the recently formed Popular Union (UP),

consisting of the PAISA [Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party], the Liberation [League], and the PPS [Salvadoran Popular Party]."

He added that his group has been talking with all the aforementioned political parties to assess the possibility of combining those parties with his movement.

Rey Prendes emphasized that the PDC deputies now in the MADC will no longer receive orders from the PDC leadership but from leaders of Rey Prendes' movement, who are the true leaders of the now divided ruling party.

To participate in the upcoming elections, the MADC would have to form a coalition with some other legally registered party, because there is not enough time to form a new party.

As for the possibility of joining the "left-wing coalition," Rey Prendes said: "I have not mentioned that coalition of parties."

Rosa Chavez Condemns Violence at Demonstration
PA1909040888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2246 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—San Salvadoran Auxiliary Bishop Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez noted today that violence is not the way to solve the problems of the country. He was commenting on the violent breakup of a university demonstration, where 1 soldier was killed and 14 students were arrested.

"The week of 15 September (anniversary of independence from Spain) began badly. On 13 September, a National University demonstration ended in violence," Msgr Rosa Chavez said this morning during his Sunday homily at the Metropolitan Cathedral.

The prelate condemned the incident and stressed that, "on the whole, the people agree violence is not the way to solve the fatherland's problems." He also mentioned the "care university and labor organizations have taken not to take to the streets."

Rosa Chavez, who replaced Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas in celebrating Sunday mass, also announced the creation of a National Debate Permanent Commission [Comision Permanente del Debate Nacional]. This commission "hopes to be represented by all sectors, including those that did not participate in the stages of the debate held so far."

The Salvadoran church, which endorses a political solution to the war conflict, began the "national debate" 3 months ago to gather all the country's social sectors for a greater consensus to end the war, which began 8 years ago and has claimed over 60,000 lives.

Rosa Chavez this morning remarked without elaborating that the process of national debate promoted by the church will continue now with the formation of the National Debate Permanent Commission.

The prelate concluded with another appeal to right-wing organizations and the productive sector to join the church's initiative and seek new peaceful means to end this country's war.

FMLN Announces 19 Sep Transportation Stoppage
PA1809024088 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Attention, members of the press and our supporters. Radio Venceremos reports that the order for the national transportation stoppage issued by our FMLN General Command will begin at 0000 hours on Monday, 19 September.

We repeat: There will be a national transportation stoppage beginning on Monday, 19 September. We call on drivers to rigorously adhere to this order. We call on our people to take the necessary measures. Do not get close to—much less board—vehicles of the puppet Army, because they will be the effective targets of our revolutionary fire. We call on our urban guerrilla and militia forces to faithfully comply with this order, which is the legitimate response of the FMLN to the repression unleashed by the [words indistinct] regime. [Words indistinct] in which their defeat makes them strike out with their claws as a wounded, dying animal would do. We call on all the people to comply with this national transportation stoppage, which will be the response of the entire nation to the repression. We must put a stop to the [words indistinct] dictatorship. As a guerrilla army, organized and united, we can triumph.

The strike begins at 0000 on Monday, 19 September. We call on our people to take the necessary measures for the national transportation stoppage, which will begin early Monday, 19 September. Everyone must prepare for it with Molotov cocktails, using all means of struggle at their disposal. The national transportation stoppage is a means of struggle. The barricades and the pieces of steel used to rip tires are your weapons. No repressive act of the regime will go unpunished.

Regarding the strike, we call on the interurban and urban bus drivers not to permit their buses to be militarized, not to be involved in the dirty maneuvers of Chato Vargas [reference to Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, chief of operations of the Salvadoran Armed Forces Staff], who is seeking to hide the [words indistinct] to counter our transportation strike by militarizing the buses. We repeat: Any vehicle that does not obey the transportation strike will be attacked by our guerrilla and urban commands in the city. We call on our urban commands and all our forces throughout the country to be unrelenting in the sabotage of all vehicles that do not obey the national transportation stoppage order.

Army Countermeasure Plan

PA1809214388 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1911 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 18 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Army today began the "Walker" [Caminante] plan to counter the fifth land transportation stoppage so far this year. The FMLN has announced the stoppage will begin at 0000 on 19 September.

The public relations office of the Salvadoran Armed Forces said the "Walker" plan will cover the entire country. As on previous occasions, the plan will be marked by an increase in land and air surveillance on highways and in the main cities. [passage omitted]

Militarization of Transport System Protested

PA1609224188 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Report by Milton Grimaldi]

[Excerpt] Members of the National Labor Union of Workers of the Transport and Related Industries today protested the militarization of several public transportation buses.

The militarization of public transportation began after Colonel Mauricio Vargas threatened businessmen and told them they must work during the FMLN transportation stoppage, which will begin in the next few days.

The businessmen are concerned, because the buses become military targets once they are militarized.

[Begin recording] [Labor union spokesman] We are protesting Col Vargas' pressures. He is ordering all the boards of directors of all the transport unions to continue working during the transportation stoppage. We also protest the forced militarization of our facilities and the presence of soldiers on our buses, because drivers and passengers are endangered since buses then become military targets.

[Grimaldi] What is your position concerning the actions implemented by Col Vargas [words indistinct] for you to work during the FMLN transportation stoppage? What specific actions will you carry out?

[Labor spokesman] We would have to hold an assembly with all the union workers and the members of the administrative council to decide on that, because working during the stoppage represents a risk for the buses and their passengers.

We believe we cannot risk our buses, basically because the government does not provide any protection. If the government were to offer some kind of guarantee for a burnt or destroyed bus, we would logically go out to work during the stoppage. However, if the government does not give any guarantee for a bus that is destroyed, we cannot work because we would be losing. We will decide whether to work or not during our assembly. We cannot risk the buses we have now, especially because we do not even have enough buses to cover the various routes and we are trying to obtain more buses. [end recording]

In addition, the union workers said the government is neglecting its duties concerning the aid it should give transport credit unions to provide maintenance for buses. [passage omitted]

Bombs Cut Power to Areas of San Salvador

PA1609124788 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0640 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Sep (REUTER)—Four bombs presumably placed by urban commands exploded here tonight, leaving some areas of the capital without power.

The police reported that no one was injured.

The bombs exploded a few seconds apart at approximately 1900 in the upper-class districts of San Benito and Escalon. A short time later, a burst of machinegun fire was heard.

A large number of foreigners, including U.S. Embassy officials, live in those areas.

One of the bombs downed an electricity post near the Israeli Embassy.

The FMLN launched a campaign on Monday with a series of attacks on Army positions in peasant regions.

The offensive was named by the guerrillas "Death to the Reagan Policy; Yankees Out of El Salvador."

50 Rebel Casualties in Morazan Fighting

PA1609204088 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Report on statements by Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of the 3d Military Zone—date and place not given]

[Text] Despite the harsh winter that the country is experiencing, military activities carried out by both the FMLN and the Armed Forces are continuing—apparently with greater intensity—aggravating El Salvador's internal war. Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of the 3d Military Zone—which encompasses three departments in the eastern part of the country—said that offensive actions by the Armed Forces continue. In the past few days, Army troops have had bloody clashes with the insurgents in northern Morazan.

[Begin Ponce recording] As recently as 2 days ago, there was a confrontation that began at 1600 and ended at 0400 on the following day in the areas of Cerro Gigante, El Chaguiton, La Majaguita, and Pueblo Viejo. According to information gathered from the terrorists, the

approximately 150 terrorists sustained some 50 dead or wounded in the fighting. We subsequently learned from area residents that 29 terrorists were killed and 21 injured. Among them was a terrorist with the nom de guerre of (Mather), who was directing the operation, according to our sources.

I believe that a harsh blow has been struck. Our units have found some corpses, and, above all, they have found a large number of human remains, such as arms, legs, and internal organs. [end recording]

The eastern area is one of the areas most affected by storms, and this has forced the Armed Forces to partially limit their operations. Col Ponce said that in the next few weeks, a new military operation may begin in northern Morazan.

Army Discovers FMLN Warehouse in Nejapa

PA1809130988 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 17 Sep 88 p 7

[Text] In recent military operations, Armed Forces units killed one rebel, seized 45,000 cartridges and other war materiel, and destroyed an underground hideout.

The terrorist died in a clash with 6th Infantry Brigade units. The soldiers had detected an FMLN column deploying near La Arana Hill in Estanzuelas, Usulutan Department.

The 1st Infantry Brigade also reported that Libertad Battalion troops found an underground warehouse near the El Castano farm in Nejapa, north of San Salvador. In the warehouse, the brigade units found 45,000 cartridges of various calibers and a large amount of material for manufacturing explosives.

In addition, Atlacatl Battalion counterinsurgency units recently seized 15 fragmentation grenades, 5 Claymore mines, 5 booby traps, 10 units of TNT, loaded cartridge clips, and 7 knapsacks containing civilian clothing, olive-green uniforms, and communist propaganda. These items were apparently left behind by wounded rebels who managed to flee after a clash with the battalion members at the foot of El Chino Hill in San Francisco Morazan, Chalatenango Department.

Furthermore, 2d Infantry Brigade units patrolling the zone of El Rodeo in El Congo, Santa Ana Department, discovered a 200-meter underground hideout big enough to conceal at least 250 insurgents. The brigade units proceeded to destroy the hideout.

Correction to FMLN on Garrison Attack

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "FMLN Communique on El Paraiso Garrison Attack," published in the 15 September Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 10-12:

page 10, column two, paragraph 10, line one: ...on enemy positions in the town of San Francisco Morazan. (supplying indistinct words)

page 10, column two, paragraph eleven, line one: ...No. 1 position on (Amatepe) Hill in La Laguna.

g. Attack on Military Detachment No 1 troops at [words indistinct] the town of Concepcion Quetzaltepeque.

h. Attack on outlying positions... (supplying indistinct words)

page 11, column one, paragraph one, line one: ...No 1 positions on (Ocote Redondo) Hill, Las Vueltas... (supplying indistinct words)

page 11, column one, paragraph five, line three: ...assault by our infantry forces. With a... (supplying indistinct word)

page 11, column one, paragraph six, line one: ...c. Inside the garrison, the FMLN forces... (rewording)

page 11, column one, paragraph nine, line two: ...armory, dormitories, and protective structures.

d3. Our forces recovered... (rewording, supplying indistinct word)

page 11, column one, last paragraph, line three: ....50-caliber machinegun, 10 incendiary grenades, 12,000 5.56-mm... (supplying indistinct word)

page 11, column two, paragraph three, line two: ...El Pito Hill and Los Encuentros, Dulce Nombre de Maria jurisdiction, and (Acordeon) Hill and Plan del Horno, San Francisco Morazan... (supplying indistinct names)

Rebels Claim 541 Army Casualties 11-18 Sep

PA1909042288[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 19 September carries 25 minutes of reports on attacks on the Army and on related actions for the week of 11-18 September.

In the first report, the announcer says: "During this week of huge victories for our people, we inflicted 541 casualties on the puppet Army. It should be noted that 450 of these casualties were inflicted during the devastating attack on the 4th Brigade in Chalatenango in the framework of the national operation called: 'Death to the Reagan Policy; Yankees Get Out of El Salvador.' The casualties include one corporal and one explosives expert. In Chalatenango, the Army casualties include many officers, but we have no confirmation yet on how many. Out of the 541 casualties, 46 were inflicted during 5 ambushes on military vehicles."

The station announces a second report, noting that "it has just been received." The announcer then says on 18 September at 0750, an FMLN unit ambushed a vehicle transporting 20 or 30 troops to the 4th Brigade in Chalatenango Department. Six powerful mines were exploded under the vehicle, which was partially destroyed, the announcer reports. The station adds that Army troops suffered 16 casualties in this action.

The announcer reports information received from the town of Berlin, noting that on 15 September, an FMLN unit attacked with grenades a National Police position north of Berlin, Usulutan Department. The announcer adds that on 14 September, FMLN militia units attacked a point west of Berlin with grenades. On that same day, the announcer reports, an FMLN unit carried out an ambush operation in Santiago Nonualco municipality, La Paz Department. Three powerful mines were used in this attack on calvary troops, which suffered 12 casualties, the announcer reports.

Guatemala

Government Rejects Extraditions to U.S.

PA1809213488 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1948 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Sep (ACAN - EFE)—A government source reported today that President Vinicio Cerezo's administration will not allow the "extradition" of Guatemalans accused of a crime to be tried in U.S. courts.

Presidential spokesman Julio Santos said the Constitution of the Republic forbids the extradition of a Guatemalan citizen to be tried in another country.

The United States had requested through its embassy in Guatemala that the Supreme Court allow the extradition of Guatemalan citizen Rufino Cordova, who is accused of trafficking drugs to the United States.

The United States has also requested the extradition of Roel Escobar Ruiz, who is accused of perpetrating a triple crime in Los Angeles, California, on an unspecified date.

Santos asserted the government will not "grant" the U.S. judicial authorities' request, because "if Guatemalans are accused of a crime and are in the country, they must be tried according to our laws."

Cordova is currently at Pavon penal farm, the largest penitentiary in the country, located in Fraijanes municipality, 18 km southeast of the capital. He is being tried for drug trafficking.

This is the second time in 1988 that the United States has presented an extradition request for two Guatemalan citizens at the 10th Court of Appeals.

Reconciliation Panel Head: Dialogue Postponed

PA1709042288 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 16 Sep 88 p 3

[Report by Julio Lemus]

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 16 Sep—Msgr Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, president of the National Reconciliation Commission, has said the national dialogue scheduled for 15 September has been postponed because several groups are currently holding a dialogue to reach a social pact.

The National Reconciliation Commission president added that the commission members met and agreed they will wait until the dialogue over a social pact concludes.

The meeting currently under way between the labor sector, business sector, and the Coordinating Committee of Farming, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations will provide future guidelines for the National Reconciliation Commission. [passage omitted]

Government Examines Alleged UK Troop Harassment

PA1709020388 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 16 Sep 88 p 4

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Sep—Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo has said that "appropriate investigations are being carried out to determine whether British troops have been harassing farming communities in Peten."

The governor of Peten had reported alleged attacks by British soldiers against Peten farmers who have fields near the border with Belize.

Asked about the alleged harassment of Guatemalan peasants by British troops, President Vinicio Cerezo said he is unaware if such an act of hostility has taken place.

He expressed surprised about such reports because, he said, British troops and the Guatemalan Army have even made some joint decisions so they can carry out their activities without any problem.

According to Governor Felix Enrique Zetina, British Army infantry units and Harrier planes, which fly at a low altitude, maintain a constant campaign of harassment of peasants in the area of El Limon and Rio Blanco, apparently with the objective of making them leave their land, which is located very close to Belizean territory.

Honduras

Government Deports 13 U.S. Protesters

PA1709034888 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0330 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 16 Sep (REUTER)—Diplomats and human rights groups reported that Honduran immigration authorities today deported to El Salvador 13 U.S. pacifists opposed to Washington's Central American policy. The U.S. citizens were taken by land to the El Amatillo border post, 120 km from Tegucigalpa.

Four of the pacifists were arrested when they blocked access to the U.S. Embassy here. The other nine were arrested after they remained in front of the Palmerola base for several hours, hindering traffic. The base, where 1,200 U.S. soldiers are stationed, is 60 km south of Tegucigalpa.

The expelled pacifists said they condemned U.S. "intervention" in Central America and Washington's support for the Nicaraguan contras, who are trying to overthrow the Sandinist government.

Nicaragua

Ortega on Contra Talks, Nandaime Prisoners

PA1809201788 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1540 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the death of the "true heroes" of Nandaime at the plaza in Nandaime—live]

[Text] Good morning, Nicaraguan brothers. Good morning, Nandaime brothers and representatives of other communities and areas in this 4th Region. Today we are commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Nandaime heroes, recalling the example, combativeness, the courage of Oscar Turcios, Ricardo Morales, Jonathan Gonzalez, and Juan Jose Quezada.

In September 1973, I was in jail with other Sandinist comrades. We had been in jail for some years. During the first days of that month, we still had contact with Oscar and Ricardo. We had managed to establish a clandestine mail system, by which Oscar and Ricardo could communicate with the FSLN members who were in jail. They sent notes to Jose Benito Escobar and me, and we maintained good political communication. We talked about the problems Nicaragua was facing and about the struggle that the FSLN was waging under conditions that were very difficult at that time.

In all those notes from Oscar and Ricardo—we knew the notes were from them because they both signed the notes we secretly received in jail—they always expressed their concern over the attitude assumed by some Nicaraguans who said that they were opposed to Somoza's government but who aligned themselves with the interests defended by Somoza and who aligned themselves with the United States, which maintained Somoza and gave him weapons and money.

That was back in 1973. During those days, some groups opposed to Somoza were trying to organize themselves in order to have a government without Somoza, but retaining Somoza's guards and continuing to receive Yankee support. They wanted a new government that would not make any substantial changes here in Nicaragua, but that would remove Somoza and replace him with representatives from the so-called opposition parties: Conservatives, Social Christians, and Independent Liberals. All those parties wanted a government without Somoza, but they also wanted to continue to defend Somoza's interests.

In other words, they were not interested in revolutionary changes for Nicaragua, because carrying out a revolution in Nicaragua meant something else, going further than the mere act of removing Somoza. Carrying out a revolution in Nicaragua meant carrying out in-depth changes for the peasants, workers, and laborers, with the people holding power rather than the capitalists. Thus, the concern shown then by Oscar and Ricardo was very well-founded, because, like Jonathan and Juan Jose, they were not just simply fighting to get rid of Somoza, but to end the exploitation regime, the capitalist regime Somoza represented.

This capitalist and exploitation regime had been defended since 1821 by Conservatives and Liberals. As you well know, the Conservative and Liberal leaders manipulated the peoples' feelings, creating false expectations, but never solving the peasants' or workers' problems. When a Conservative came to power, they would steal the peasants' lands. If the Liberals came to power, they too stole the peasants' land. If the Conservatives came to power, they would give themselves to the Yankee government. If the Liberals came to power, they would also give themselves to the Yankee government.

Both the Liberals and the Conservatives—who were the only ones who could become president in this country and own the government and power—gave no power whatsoever to the workers. If the workers wanted to organize to seek better living conditions, they were repressed, they were jailed. If the peasants protested because their lands were being stolen, they were repressed, they were thrown in jail or were murdered. Liberal and Conservative leaders were all the same. Of course, the rank and file they influenced—they undoubtedly influenced certain important sectors of our population—were never satisfied with this, because they felt cheated. The people sometimes voted for the Conservatives, because they thought they would do better with them. Sometimes they voted for the Liberals for the same reason. The people had no other option from which to chose.

The capitalists, the rich, the imperialists had imposed upon Nicaragua a type of democracy: class dictatorships calling themselves democracies. All Nicaragua had was a capitalist dictatorship with Conservatives and Liberals taking turns, which is why Emiliano Chamorro, Adolfo Diaz, the Sacasas, the Moncadas, the Somozas were all the same—they all defended the same interests. From time to time they quarreled among themselves, but they quarreled to see who could steal the most. That is why they quarreled. They quarreled among themselves over the peasants' lands, to see who would steal the land. That is why they quarreled among themselves. The Conservative and Liberal landowners wanted more and more land. This has been Nicaragua's history.

This is the history the FSLN wanted to change. Sandino wanted to change this history, as did Andres Castro when he faced the Yankees in San Jacinto; even Jose Dolores Estrada did when he faced the Yankees in San Jacinto. Here is where Jose Dolores Estrada, when facing the Yankees at San Jacinto, stopped being a Conservative at that very moment and became a Nicaraguan patriot.

How would we like all these turncoats belonging to right-wing parties that describe themselves as opposition members—the so-called Conservatives, Liberals, Social Christians, the so-called Communists, the so-called Marxist-Leninists, the so-called Socialists, the so-called Independent Liberals—how would we like all these people to have the dignity that Jose Dolores Estrada had? At that moment, he stopped acting and thinking as a Conservative to act as a Nicaraguan to face the Yankees. If these turncoat party leaders had even a minimum of patriotic feeling, they would follow the example of Jose Dolores Estrada and Andres Castro.

In these times, these years, during which Nicaragua has had to face Yankee aggression, the logical thing is for them to have acted in a patriotic manner by confronting the Yankees. But this has not been their behavior. Why? Because they feel no love for the fatherland, they feel no love for Nicaragua, they feel no love for the people. What they love is money, silver, and gold, and they love the U.S. empire. They feel love only for those people.

When did they love the peasants, the workers? When did they treat them well? They never even gave them the opportunity to speak, to organize themselves. When did a rich Conservative or a rich Liberal invite a peasant or worker to discuss economic problems? When did he take them into account? He considered them only when he wanted to exploit them. He considered them only to oppress them, to suck out their sweat and blood, and to get rich. That is the only reason why he considered them. Yet he did not consider them when discussing political or economic matters.

Come election time, the ranch owner, the boss, would tell the peasants: You have to vote for this or that party, and the peasant had to do it, because if he did not do it he would be fired. Actually, those were not agricultural workers working there; they were peasants whose land had been stolen from them and were forced to work as agricultural laborers on the Conservatives' and the Liberals' ranches.

The Conservative boss would tell his workers: Go and vote for the party and bring me evidence you voted for the Conservative Party; otherwise, I will fire you. Liberal landowners used to tell their workers the same thing. This was the history of Nicaragua.

On 18 September 1973, our brothers Oscar Turcio, Ricardo Morales, Jonathan, and Juan Jose gave their lives to transform history, to allow the people to seize power, and to have an independent, sovereign, and free Nicaragua.

Oscar could have very well continued his technical and professional career and enhanced his own life. The same goes for Ricardo, Juan Jose, and Jonathan. However, their top priority was the people, not their own personal interests. For them, the workers and the peasants were most important. They were activists of the Sandinist Front because they wanted a revolution in Nicaragua, a revolution that would give power to the people. They did not expect the opposition parties—the leaders of these opposition parties—to adopt a position in line with their own. Of course there are always exceptions to the rule. There were people who had run those parties and people who were activists of those parties and decided to break with those parties and struggle for the revolution at the side of the Sandinist Front.

September 1973 was a sad month for the people of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Third World. It was a very difficult month for the fighters of the Sandinist Front and the Nicaraguan people. On 11 September, there was a coup in Chile, a coup against the people. The Yankees and their Army, the Chilean capitalists, the Chilean bourgeoisie, the Chilean media, and the rightist sectors of the Chilean parties got together to plot and carry out a military coup against the workers and peasants of Chile.

On 18 September, we received the news of the assassination of Oscar, Ricardo, Jonathan, and Juan Jose, who were conscientious Sandinist fighters and heroes. Their headquarters here in Nandaime were discovered by the National Guard, which led to the first confrontation. Jonathan, Juan Jose, and other comrades participated in this clash. Oscar and Ricardo had been captured the previous day, and they were brutally tortured and assassinated.

It would be interesting if those heading the country's media would review the newspapers of that time to see what NOVEDADES, LA PRENSA, COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise]—there was already a COSEP back then—the Conservative Party, the Independent Liberal Party, the Social Christian Party, and all

those parties that claimed to be in opposition said back then in the face of the brutal and horrible crime that Somozism committed against Ricardo, Oscar, Jonathan, and Juan Jose.

It would also be interesting to check international information to find out how many governments; presidents; political leaders of the Social Christian International, the Social Democratic International, the Liberal International, or the Conservative International; leaders of labor organizations, the CLAT [Latin American Central Organization of Workers], the AFL-CIO, and all those international labor organizations protested and condemned that crime.

Let us see who condemned that crime and who protested against that crime. How many messages did Somoza receive to protest that crime?

There were no protest messages. There were no protests from opposition parties. They did not condemn that crime.

LA PRENSA and NOVEDADES carried it as another news report. They even speculated one of those killed was Carlos Fonseca. Juan Jose was confused with Carlos Fonseca. They simply reported this as a news item. There were no protests. That crime was not condemned.

Deep down, those people were happy because Somoza and the Somozist guardsmen were killing FSLN leaders. They knew what the FSLN was and represented. They knew what interests the FSLN defended.

That was the truth. Class interests united them with Somoza; class interests made them accomplices of the crimes committed by Somoza. Therefore, they viewed workers, peasants, and thus the FSLN as enemies. The wealthy and the capitalists thought: If Somoza can kill Sandinist leaders—he killed Oscar Turcios and Ricardo Morales and prominent fighters such as Jonathan and Juan Jose Quezada—then the FSLN had no chance of stirring up workers and peasants against us; they used to say this. Therefore, deep down, they were happy.

Therefore, there was not a single protest against the Somoza government. This crime was only one more news report. These newspapers reported that four Sandinist fighters had died. That was all.

The people, who were sad over those deaths, who identified themselves with the FSLN and knew what the FSLN meant, who knew about the interests involved, defended the FSLN! Yes, peasants and workers were sad about those deaths, because they knew the FSLN defended, and still defends, their interests.

I recall this because right here in Nandaime in July, on 10 July, the opposition to the revolution—the proimperialist opposition; the opposition that defends the same interests that Somozism defended; the opposition that did not condemn the crimes committed by Somozism against the people, against the FSLN; the opposition that exploited workers and peasants—mounted a demonstration, a provocation against the revolution here in Nandaime. They brought people from all the departments—there were very few people from Nandaime—and began attacking the Sandinist police, seriously injuring many of them.

Logically, in facing such a criminal action—anyone who acts that way is a criminal—there were arrests. While in jail, after the police had sentenced them to 6 months in prison, they appealed. The appeal was accepted, and their cases were transferred to ordinary courts. The ordinary courts will now issue the sentences.

Now there are many protests from abroad, from people who never protested when Somoza killed the people and now protest because the people's government, the revolutionary government, the government of workers and peasants, sends to jail criminals who attacked the Sandinist police.

Also here, internally, some are trying to make them appear as martyrs, as heroes. Nothing could be more absurd and false. We all know the action taken by the revolutionary government in this case falls within the framework of the laws in this country. When I have had to talk on this subject with some foreigners who have arrived here and have expressed their concern over the situation of the prisoners of Nandaime, as they are called, I remind them a little that they never protested the crimes Somoza committed against the people, that they did not protest the Nandaime murders—when Somoza, the National Guard, capitalism, and imperialism murdered Oscar, Ricardo, Jonathan, and Juan Jose. I never heard you protest, we never learned of any protests from you. We have searched the files, but have not found any protests from you. For you, Nicaragua did not exist then.

When I have discussed the matter with government representatives with whom we have normal relations, I have told them: You see, you have your laws, and those laws are to defend your system. You have a capitalist system and have laws to defend that capitalist system; you have many prisoners, too; you are always arresting people, beating up people in the streets, repressing people in the streets and murdering people in the streets. However, we do not demand any explanation from you concerning your domestic situation. We are not sending messages to Latin American or European governments, to labor organizations or to political parties protesting incidents that occur daily in a number of countries, where workers are not only arrested, but tortured and murdered. We do not meddle in the domestic affairs of other countries.

We express solidarity with the people's struggle, and now it is the peoples who will find their own answers and will give their own answer in each place. But we will not

interfere, just as we are not interfering in the domestic affairs of the United States, where they have their laws and regulations, where they even have the death penalty.

We have told them: Gentlemen, each country has its own laws to defend. They defend a constitutional framework and a power that overall is a power of classes.

It is either the capitalists, the wealthy, in power—and they have their laws to defend their power against the majority—or it is the workers who are in power, and, logically, they also have their laws to defend their power.

There are laws everywhere in the world. There is not a single country without laws. Nicaragua cannot be the exception. So they must be convinced that there are laws in Nicaragua. There is a constitutional framework in Nicaragua, which must be respected. Whoever violates the law becomes a criminal.

Here we punish an Army member, a policeman, a Sandinist military member whenever they commit a crime. We have even sentenced to 30 years in prison former members of our Army or of the police for committing crimes. They have been stripped of their rank in public acts before the people; they have been stripped of their stripes; they have been stripped of their uniform; they have been sentenced to prison for 30 years. These people cannot have privileges. Nobody can have privileges, much less those who are conspiring against the revolutionary power, much less those who are conspiring against the people, much less those who are allies of the Yankee empire. [crowd shouts slogans]

In fact, Reagan's paper, the CIA's paper, imperialism's paper, highlighted a statement by a COSEP member. This Mr Bolanos, who currently is in the United States, urged the U.S. Government—the Yankee government and the businessmen—to undertake a joint action against the Nicaraguan revolution, against the Nicaraguan people, against the Nicaraguan Government, and against the Sandinist process. It is clear people of that type act in that manner. He is a millionaire, has been a millionaire, has money abroad, has been a capitalist, has been an exploiter. He is irked because he owned many manzanas of land in the Masaya area, he had quite a large farm in Masaya, and he is bothered, not because I took the farm and have taken it over, but because we took the farm and turned it over to the peasants. The peasants now own the farm. That is what he does not like. [crowd shouts slogans] That is why he is irked, because we hit him where it hurt the most. These people are hurt most when their properties are affected, properties that have been made to produce at the cost of the workers, not through their effort, but at the cost of the workers. They are not indispensable; the workers are indispensable. If we were to leave Bolanos alone without workers on his farm, what would happen? That farm could produce, regardless of how capable he is or how intelligent he is. Without workers, it cannot produce. However, if he were to do what we did—take the land and gave it to the peasants so they could work it—the farm would be producing. And it has good production, varied and very good production. What does this prove? The ones who truly produce wealth in this country are the farm workers, the peasants, and the industrial workers—not the owners of the properties.

This is the situation at this time when we are commemorating the 15th anniversary of the death, in combat, of the Nandaime heroes. They all fell in combat, even Oscar and Ricardo, because they were fighting for the revolution. Although it is true that Oscar and Ricardo were taken prisoners, tortured, and assassinated, that does not take away the validity of describing them as heroes who fell in combat.

They knew the risks they were taking and, on this 15th anniversary, we want to reaffirm our decision to continue defending this revolution, for which the Nandaime heroes gave their blood. This must be made very clear when we talk about negotiating with the contras again, because it is true that we proposed to the contras that a meeting be held in Guatemala to discuss the holding of another high-level meeting; in other words, we proposed holding a preparatory meeting—as one calls this kind of meeting. A preparatory meeting will be held to discuss where to hold and the conditions for the next high-level meeting.

We have maintained that the meetings should be held in Managua. They [the contras] are now saying that the meetings should be held in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, or Costa Rica. We maintain our position that high-level meetings must be held in Managua. That is what we are going to discuss Monday and Tuesday in Guatemala, where a Nicaraguan delegation headed by Comrade Tinoco and a contra delegation headed by a person as yet unidentified will arrive to discuss those points. The contras will demand that the meeting take place in Santo Domingo, Guatemala, or Costa Rica, and we will insist that the meeting be held in Managua. Will they agree to meet in Managua? We do not know, but that is our position. In addition, they have stated in a communique that in order for the meeting to take place, the Nandaime prisoners must be released. We cannot, of course, accept any kind of conditions. [person in crowd shouts: "The people's power must be respected!"] That is true, the people's power must be respected, or we will make sure it is respected. [crowd shouts slogans]

Therefore, we cannot yield to this attitude of the contras, which reflects the Yankees' attitude. Consequently, we are not releasing these people. The judge is to decide that. The judge is to decide, in due time, who will remain in prison and who will be set free. The judge will announce the sentence. The judge has the power to do this. We will not interfere. However, these people must be forgetting, right now, the extreme flexibility that we have shown. We kept releasing them even after they committed crimes. In fact, we kept releasing known Somozist criminals. Well, they must have forgotten that.

Some were under the impression that we had to release the prisoners or else the contras would get the U.S. Congress to approve more funds for them. Congress may approve more money for the contras, but it cannot interfere with law enforcement in our country. They have been under the impression that they can do as they please here. They think that they cannot be punished or put in jail. However, they feel that we should punish a worker who is at fault or who has committed a crime, that we should punish an Army or police member who is at fault or who has committed a crime, that we should punish an FSLN member who is at fault or who has committed a crime, but that we should not touch them. There are no untouchables here! They will remain in jail as long as the judge says they should. It is the judge who will issue the sentence. [applause; crowd shouts: "People's power!"]

Therefore, it is very important for the Nicaraguan people to be informed of the way in which the negotiations with the contras will be handled. Of course we want peace, and the government has been seriously working to make peace a reality. However, we cannot sacrifice the revolution's principles, which are not negotiable. It is in that spirit that we have been working for peace, and it is in that spirit that we will continue working for peace in Nicaragua. [crowd shouts slogans]

On this 15th anniversary of the Nandaime heroes, on this 15th anniversary of Oscar, Ricardo, Juan Jose, and Jonathan, from this simple and humble plaza in this also simple and humble but patritoic and dignified town of Nandaime, we once again reaffirm our determination to struggle, to fight, and to continue to strengthen the revolution's military defense, in which Nicaraguan women are massively taking part. Nicaraguan women have won that right. Nicaraguan women not only have the right to work in the service industry, in agricultural and industrial activities; Nicaraguan women have also earned the right to clutch a rifle to defend their homeland, the revolution; and their rights were conquered with the revolutionary triumph of 19 July 1979. [applause]

On this 15th anniversary of the Nandaime heroes, following the heroic example of Oscar, Ricardo, Jonathan, and Juan Jose, all patriotic Nicaraguans, all Sandinists, all workers from the cities and the countryside, all the proud people of Nicaragua are convinced that we will continue struggling, working, and fighting to continue to consolidate this revolutionary process that neither Reagan nor any other U.S. ruler, traitor, or mercenary will ever be able to destroy.

The revolution arrived in Nicaragua on 19 July 1979, and from that date forward Nicaraguan workers have defended it; therefore, the revolution is invincible and cannot be destroyed or removed. It cannot take even one step backward, but it can move one, two, or many steps forward! Free fatherland! [crowd shouts: "or death!"] Long live the heroes of Nandaime! [crowd shouts: "Viva!"]

RN Sets Conditions for 'Successful' Negotiations

PA1709135888 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] spokesman Bosco Matamoros said that if the negotiations with the Nicaraguan Government are to be successful, the government first would have to release 39 opposition members detained on 10 July during antigovernment demonstrations and abolish the restrictions imposed on the press since then.

Matamoros announced that the contras have agreed to hold a preliminary meeting with Sandinist government representatives on Monday in Guatemala to discuss the resumption of talks suspended since 9 June. The RN proposes resuming the talks between 26 and 28 September. It has not been established if the negotiations will be held in Guatemala, Costa Rica, or in the Dominican Republic—which are the contras' choices—or in Managua, which had been suggested by the Nicaraguan Government.

Six of the seven RN leaders visited the U.S. State Department on Wednesday, but their spokesman denied that the RN's decision had been influenced by the U.S. Government.

Managua Police Ban Opposition Demonstration

PA1709223688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2146 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Managua, 17 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—The Managua police today turned down the opposition's request to hold a demonstration on 25 September, according to political sources.

Opposition leader Adan Fletes told ACAN-EFE that Commander Doris Tijerino, chief of the Managua police, issued a letter—made public today—to the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN) Directorate stating that the authorization had been denied. The CDN requested an authorization on 2 September to hold a demonstration "against hunger, poverty, unemployment, and noncompliance with the Esquipulas II treaties."

Fletes said that Commander Tijerino invoked the articles of a 1924 law to refuse a legal authorization for the opposition's march through the western neighborhoods in Managua.

"Our lawyers are studying the contents of those articles to determine what legal grounds we have for action," Fletes said.

The opposition leader added that the government's attitude is "contradictory," because the police authorized the CDN's demonstrations months ago, when the armed conflict was evident in the country, yet the authorization is denied now, when the truce has been in effect several months.

He recalled the CDN's demonstration in Nandaime on 10 July, which was carried out with police authorization. The demonstration led to a fight between opposition members and the police in which rocks and sticks were thrown and more than 40 dissidents were sent to jail.

The government expelled U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton the next day, accusing him of instigating the demonstration against the revolutionary regime.

The CDN leadership will meet on Monday to decide what will be done as a result of the police's refusal to authorize the march.

"The Sandinists have refused to authorize the march because they do not want to accept the challenge of measuring their popularity against the CDN's popularity, since the opposition's power has increased while the FSLN's has declined," Fletes said.

The CDN, founded in 1981, is comprised of six opposition parties, two non-Sandinist labor federations, and six business associations.

Maj Wheelock on U.S. Policy, Contra Aid

PA1709003688 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 16 Sep 88 p 8

["Exclusive" SALPRESS-NOTISAL report for EL NUEVO DIARIO on interview with Major Ricardo Wheelock, chief of the Military Intelligence Directorate, by Juan Jose Garcia—date and place not given]

[Text] "In mid-September, when the U.S. Congress resumes the debate on aid to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, the Central American crisis will grow worse," Major Ricardo Wheelock, chief of intelligence of the EPS General Staff, has said.

In exclusive remarks to SALPRESS-NOTISAL, the Nicaraguan officer analyzed the situation on the isthmus. In this region, U.S. foreign policy is at odds with the international peace initiatives promoted by the Contadora and Support Groups and the Esquipulas II agreements signed by the five Central American presidents in August 1987.

Ricardo Wheelock belongs to the negotiating commission that seeks an agreement between the Sandinists and counterrevolutionaries. He felt that "in October, the situation will turn much more dangerous, because the Reagan administration will seek a 'push' [preceding word in English] to win votes for the Republican Party in November's presidential elections."

"The Reagan administration opposes a political solution in Central America, whether in Nicaragua or in El Salvador," Wheelock warned. He later said that instead of seeking a political solution, the Reagan administration seeks to create what is termed the "northern triangle," which is a military alliance against Nicaragua comprising the Honduran, Guatemalan, and Salvadoran Armies.

The Sandinist intelligence chief explained that because of the counterrevolutionary forces' precarious situation, the Reagan administration "wants to put the revolution in a 'dubious position' and wants to make us appear as the aggressors in Honduras or against the contra forces in that country to justify the delivery of $20 million in aid to the contras."

According to reports by Nicaraguan officers, the contras have moved two-thirds of their troops into Honduras, where they are receiving training, logistical aid, and food. Wheelock said the objective is to rebuild the contra forces to move them into Nicaragua when the military aid is received.

"From a strategic viewpoint, the counterrevolution has been beaten, as can be seen by their absence of a social base. Over 60-70 percent of their forces come from forced recruitment. In addition, the contras have been unable to replace the forces that have been eliminated or captured. Therefore, they do not pose a danger to the revolution," Wheelock commented.

The top-ranking officer analyzed the causes of the contras' defeat, explaining that the essence of the defeat lies in their level of dependence on the United States; the contras' very existence emerged "as a contradiction between the revolution and the United States." That situation makes them alien to the people of Nicaragua.

"That is why they need a law that provides them money, intelligence, and supplies, and that plans their operations for them," he added.

"We know of no other movement, including the Afghan case, that has ever received so much support from the U.S. Administration as the Nicaraguan counterrevolution," Wheelock explained.

He said that, for example, no Latin American army has the contras' sophisticated communications system, including the equipment known as tato tex [as published], which is used by elite U.S. combat troops.

Ricardo Wheelock asserted: Nevertheless, "we have defeated the contras, and they are divided." He added that the Sandinists discovered the lack of unity among the contra forces during the talks that began in March this year.

"On one side, we have the FDN, and on the other side, we have the Southern Opposition Block (BOS). The Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) is now an independent force, and there is a marked division among the armed Indian groups. All this has created a void among those groups," Wheelock asserted.

This division among the counterrevolutionary groups has created a great problem for the Nicaraguan Government during the negotiations, because, as the chief of military intelligence asserted, they do not know if the contra representatives talk "on behalf of a group or only part of it."

Wheelock analyzed the Central American crisis and asserted that the links between the Salvadoran Government and the counterrevolution date back many years and began with Eden Pastora, who received weapons, ammunition, and training from the Salvadoran Army.

"A large amount of weapons and ammunition for the contras have been stored in the hangars of Ilopango Air Force Base, located on the outskirts of San Salvador, and El Salvador has served as final destination in the purchase of weapons for the contras," the military officer warned.

Wheelock later asserted that the EPS radio direction finder units have detected that the transmissions of the contras' "Radio Liberacion" are broadcast from the Salvadoran Army's Staff installations.

The Sandinist military intelligence chief added: "We also have information about their business relations and relations of friendship, and we know many counterrevolutionary Directorate members are welcomed in El Salvador with deference and counterrevolutionary fraternity."

Maj Ricardo Wheelock's statements indicate the situation in Central America, specifically in Nicaragua, will worsen to unpredictable levels in the next few months, prior to the U.S. elections.

The Nicaraguan counterrevolution no longer represents an alternative in the Nicaraguan-U.S. confrontation, so the Sandinists believe the U.S. Administration and the Salvadoran, Guatemalan, and Honduran Armies could increase their actions and carry out the threat of a war throughout Central America.

Hurricane Gilbert Causes 'Considerable Damage'

PA1709195788 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The tail end of Hurricane Gilbert has, in effect, caused considerable damage in Nicaragua. Yesterday's torrential rains in Region 2 left many homeless and caused serious losses. Civil Defense authorities reported this morning that among the homeless are 43 families or 273 people in the urban area of Somotillo, 4 affected families numbering 28 people in (Ruedo Grande), (?9) families numbering 56 people in Villa Nueva near Puente Real, and 19 families numbering 150 people in (Acualapa), (La Cepa), and (El Caimital).

San Francisco del Norte is virtually isolated as a result of the heavy rains, and approximately 500 manzanas of corn were damaged in (Acualapa) and Somotillo. It was also reported that 500 families or 3,500 people were left homeless in Cuatro Palos. There are further reports of serious damage to other communities in Region 2, which has been seriously affected by the storms unleashed by Hurricane Gilbert. The hurricane is currently wreaking havoc in the United States.

Rains have also been reported in Boaco, where one home was destroyed and one woman sustained serious injuries. El Cacao is isolated because the river flooded and destroyed the bridge that linked that community with Boaco. In Chinandega, meanwhile, approximately 300 people have already been evacuated because of the torrential rains. The evacuees lost domestic animals and all their belongings in floods that leveled their ranches. Especially affected was the Israel farming colony in Somotillo.

Crops 'Seriously Damaged'

PA1709140888 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1228 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Excerpt] A total of 12 people have died, over 1,300 have been evacuated, 6 homes have been destroyed and 48 damaged, and crops have been seriously damaged by the flooding of rivers and streams in Region 1. Here is a report by Radio Liberacion's Pedro Noel Morales:

[Begin recording] Yesterday afternoon, funeral rites were held for Hugo Rodriguez of SINACOI [Fire Prevention System], who died while trying to rescue a family from the flooded Pire River in Condeca, and for Maria Salinas Peralta of the Red Cross branch in Ocotal, who drowned in the Dipilto River.

Twelve people have drowned in the flooded rivers in Esteli, Condega, Pueblo Nuevo, El Coco, and Dipilto, and over 1,300 people have been evacuated from those areas. Six homes have been destroyed and 48 have been damaged in the areas of Telpaneca and Somoto. The rains have also affected agricultural and livestock production as well as communications in the various areas of Region 1.

Yesterday afternoon, peasant Esteban Garcia Gutierrez of the [name indistinct] cooperative in Condega drowned while trying to cross the Esteli River. This was reported by SINACOI, which urged the population to follow instructions from SINACOI itself, the Red Cross, and Civil Defense authorities. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Panama

Noriega Denies 'Personal Problem' With U.S.

PA1609205088 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2019 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Panama City, 16 Sep (DPA)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], said today the Panamanian Government does not have any personal problem to resolve with Washington, as was suggested by the Panamanian opposition, which has defined the crisis as being between Reagan and the ranking officer.

The military officer, who was interviewed at the close of a meeting of community leaders, said that "thus far, we have not noticed any desire by the U.S. Government to discuss the Panamanian crisis." He explained that "Panama's problem is not the FDP."

"The Panamanian state is composed of all Panamanians, the executive branch, the National Assembly, the FDP, and other organizations. When there is a consensus for talks "directly with the Reagan administration," we will all participate, and we will not discuss personal affairs," the ranking officer stated. [quotation marks as received]

"Here we have no personal problem to resolve in Washington, as the Panamanian opposition makes it appear," Noriega said. He added: "The problems are problems of the state and of the Republic. We do not have personal friendships, but state friendships," he concluded.

On Peace With Costa Rica

PA1809003188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2316 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Paso Canoa (Panama), 17 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—General Manuel Antonio Noriega stated today, after meeting with a delegation of Costa Rican merchants at the Paso Canoa border post, that "peace must prevail" at the Costa Rican border.

The meeting between Noriega and the Costa Rican merchants took place at the merchants' request on the occasion of a visit by Panama's "strongman" to the border region, where he inaugurated several public installations.

In an eminently conciliatory tone, Noriega referred repeatedly to the border as "a calm zone."

"We must handle the situation," he said, "based on love, not based on the number of weapons each one has."

Paso Canoa and the border posts in the region have seen their trade seriously affected in recent months by restrictions imposed on local traffic by the governments of both countries.

Addressing Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, Noriega noted in brief statements to the press: "I would tell him that the border with Nicaragua does not function and that he must support this one with Panama, which does function."

In recent months, local trade on both sides of the border has suffered as a result of the restrictive measures adopted first by Costa Rica and recently by Panama.

Before the crisis, local trade flourished based on the "courtesies" or tax exemptions that both countries extended to border residents to buy products in stores of the neighboring country.

Referring to the alleged action of Panamanian opposition groups from Costa Rican territory, Noriega warned that "whatever they dish out, they will get back."

However, he was at all times conciliatory with the Costa Rican Government with whom, he said, the principles of "security and peaceful coexistence" must prevail.

On 24 September, the Costa Rican parliament will study a draft bill that would reinstitute the courtesies for a 1-year period.

Several observers of the region view Noriega's visit to Paso Canoa—the second in less than 3 weeks—as a form of "pressure" on the Costa Rican authorities to reinstate the "courtesies," which were suspended more than a year ago.

All Costa Rican organizations in the region have signed a document addressed to the 1990 presidential hopefuls in their country, noting that they will "not vote for any of them" if they do not first reinstate the "courtesies."

Costa Rican merchants and residents of the area went to Panamanian territory where they received Noriega with conciliatory messages and slogans reiterating the "brotherhood" between Costa Rica and Panama.

However, they did not get Noriega to agree to temporarily lift the suspension of the "courtesies" imposed recently by Panama as long as the Costa Rican official position is not modified.

The only commitment they obtained from Gen Noriega was that Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni will visit Paso Canoa this coming Monday.

Camilo Gozaine, legislator of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), who has major business interests at the border, highlighted the commander's "peace visit." He added: "Everyone was able to see that Gen Noriega hurls balls and not bullets," referring to Noriega's symbolic participation in a baseball game during his stay in Paso Canoa.

On Elections

PA1609144188 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Statement by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces at a meeting with Electoral Tribunal representatives and FDP staff in Rio Hato "today"—recorded]

[Text] You play a great role within the political and electoral framework of the elections. This role will form the basis for the principal strategies of the various political parties' national executive committees. That is why your being sufficiently aware and up-to-date is such a great advantage to our strategy. We know you have heard of plans, but we all must realize that many of the plans that should be implemented remain mere dreams because of the budget. We must adjust to this reality. We must keep our feet on the ground and coordinate our actions.

We want to recommend this to the parties' national executive committees and to the regional leaders here today. Recommendations, directions, and orders should result from direct, joint efforts. However, these efforts should not involve imposing a roster of candidates or interfering in political differences that may exist among candidates. [applause] [Decisions should not be made by] one group that wants to impose itself upon others; instead, decisions should truly reflect what is happening in the province, in the zone.

That is why his [not further identified] best quality and the reason he deserves respect is because no one can call him a liar. A candidate may be called a liar, a presidential hopeful may be called a liar, but the head of a military zone cannot afford to be called a liar. The head of a military zone must inform the command units about the true state of the political situation. We do not want the military zone's chief to be affected by the rivalries among candidates. We do not want him to engage in political conflicts because of his friendships. We want him to be everyone's friend and everyone's supporter. We want him to treat everyone equally. The political leadership [of the candidates] should not be directly proportional to their degree of friendship with the chief of the military zone. Political leadership should lie within the candidates themselves. [applause]

Officials Allege U.S. Violations of Airspace

PA1609235888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2237 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Panama City, 16 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Civil Aeronautics Director (DAC) Major Pascual Gonzalez said today that U.S. Air Force planes stationed along the Panama Canal have violated Panamanian airspace at least eight times. Gonzalez said that on one occasion the U.S. planes endangered a Colombian commercial airliner.

Similarly, Maj Gonzalez said the radio station operated by the U.S. Southern Command in Fort Clayton, near Panama City, interferes with DAC communications during "emergency calls, in violation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties" signed in 1977.

Maj Gonzalez said those "arrogant actions endangered international civil aviation in Panama." He added that those actions "are very frequent and are part of the campaign of U.S. psychological warfare against our country." Gonzalez said "over eight U.S. airspace violations have been recorded" in the last few months. Maj Gonzalez described those violations as "open provocations that threaten the defense and safety of the canal."

DAC Navigation Director Robinson Urriola said that on 12 May, two U.S. military planes flew in circles in front of an Eastern Airlines plane at 3,000 feet (approximately 1,000 meters). The Eastern plane was on a flight from Miami to Panama.

On 8 June, he added, "the pilot of an armed U.S. Air Force A-37 plane followed a hostile attack pattern by flying at 3,000 feet over the town of Aguadulce, 191 km from the capital, and by flying in circles in front of a Panamanian Air Force Aviocar 255."

On 26 May, a U.S. KC-135 military tanker plane, "part of a flight formation, left its original course without permission from the DAC traffic control authorities, causing a near-miss with a Boeing 727 (registration number AES 385)," the Panamanian official reported.

On 21 August, eight U.S. UH-60 helicopters overflew the town of Arraijan, 17 km from Panama City, "at a low altitude and in formation."

The officials said that on 25 August, a UH-60 overflew Omar Torrijos International Airport and the barracks of Battalion 2000, an elite unit of the Panamanian military, "without having carried out the necessary coordination."

According to the DAC, a U.S. Air Force C-130 cargo plane almost collided with a Boeing 727 of the Colombian Avianca airline (flight 680) near the Caribbean island of San Andres on 27 August.

Urriola added that on 1 September, a U.S. combat plane ignored civil aviation regulations, "nearly colliding with a plane piloted by Ike Rosen 1 mile from the Bahai temple," on the outskirts of Panama City.

Colonel Aquilino Sieiro, a member of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Staff, recently said the Panamanian military has had to restrain itself so as to not respond to the provocations by U.S. Army helicopters, which hover at low altitude and without prior notification over FDP Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega's headquarters.

Strikes, Agreement Over 13th Month Bonus

Government-FENASEP Pact

PA1609163488 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Sep 88 p A-1

[Text] As the result of an agreement signed Thursday between the government and representatives of the FENASEP [National Federation of Associations of Public Employees] and the Coordinating Board of State Agencies' Unions, the government will pay the second part of the 13th-month bonus in October.

The direct effect of the U.S. economic and political aggression against Panama was analyzed during the talks. Participants pointed out the negative effect of this aggression on the poorest sectors of the country and the harm inflicted on the national economy, which, in turn, hampers public sector operations.

The agreement stipulates how the second portion of the 13th-month bonus will be paid:

(a) Fifty (50) percent in unrestricted checks during October.

(b) Twenty-five (25) percent in checks that can be endorsed and used only to pay for public utilities in residences. These checks cannot be used to pay for utilities used by stores, industrial plants, or any other commercial establishment. This amount will be broken down in checks of smaller amounts to facilitate use.

(c) The government agrees to make efforts to save and to increase revenue to ensure the biweekly payment of public employees' salaries and the full payment of the third part of the 13th-month bonus between 7 and 22 December. The remaining 25 percent of the second part of the 13th-month bonus will be paid sometime this year. If the savings and income are not sufficient, however, the remaining 25 percent of the second part of 1988's 13th-month bonus will be paid in unrestricted checks no later than April 1989. This, however, will not entail deferring the payment of the first part of 1989's 13th-month bonus.

It was also agreed that the government will present a civil service and administrative career bill to the Council of Ministers. The government and the FENASEP will look into the authorization required by Article 159 of the Constitution and send it to the Legislative Assembly as soon as possible with a request that the matter be given priority treatment.

The government will present this bill to the Legislative Assembly within 20 days.

The document is signed by Nander Pitty, Presidency minister; Luis E. Blanco, Jackie Cardoze, and Carlos De Sedas, members of the Mediation Commission; FENASEP Secretary General Hector Aleman; and Marco T. Moscoso, secretary general of the Coordinating Board of State Agencies' Unions.

Government on Pact, Strike

PA1709012488 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2319 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Statement issued by the executive branch in Panama City on 16 September]

[Text] The executive branch informs the public that its authorized representatives have been meeting for several days with the FENASEP secretaries general, other FENASEP leaders, and the leaders of the Coordinating Board of State Agencies' Unions to negotiate the demands presented by FENASEP on its 7th day of struggle.

After ample discussions, the parties agreed on a document that would be signed after consultations between the secretaries general and the boards of directors of both FENASEP and the Coordinating Board of State Agencies' Unions. In view of the report stating that the aforementioned document will not be signed by representatives of the public employees unions, the executive branch expresses it willingness to pay the following as agreed:

1. Fifty percent of the second portion of the 13th-month bonus payment will be paid in unrestricted checks in October 1988, 25 percent of the second portion will be paid in restricted checks that can only be used to pay for public utilities in residences but not for utilities used by stores, industries, or other commercial establishments. The 25-percent portion will be broken down into checks that will facilitate their use.

The government promises to try very hard to save money and increase revenues to ensure byweekly payment of public employees' salaries, the full payment of the third portion of the 13th-month bonus payment between 7 and 22 December, and the payment of the remaining 25 percent of the second portion, which will be paid sometime this year.

Nevertheless, if the savings or revenues are not enough, the remaining 25 percent of the second portion of the 13th-month bonus for 1988 will paid in unrestricted checks not later than April 1989. This does not entail deferring payment of the first portion of the 13th-month bonus for 1989.

2. The executive branch will present a civil service and administrative career bill, prepared with FENASEP, at the next cabinet meeting for the authorization stipulated in Article No 159 of the national Constitution. The bill will be sent to the honorable Legislative Assembly as soon as possible with the request that it be given priority treatment. The executive branch will submit the aforementioned document to the legislative branch within 20 days.

3. To help prepare and develop government plans and programs aimed at countering U.S. Government aggression against Panama, an increased participation of public employees will be sought in the search for immediate solutions by creating mixed productivity commissions for national liberation.

4. The state will adopt the necessary measures to increase its revenues and savings by collecting revenues more efficiently and implementing broader and better supervision to guarantee fulfilling tax commitments. The government will also increase its austerity measures to improve and rationalize the administration of state resources, thus avoiding any extreme measures—including salary cuts.

zIf there are not enough resources despite all these measures, the state promises to safeguard salaries in lower levels and implement the necessary adjustments in higher levels of public employees' salaries. In this case, there will be consultation with the public employees' organizations and associations so no unilateral and unauthorized decisions are implemented.

5. The executive branch will urge patriotic forces, political parties, and popular organizations to participate in the discussion and implementation of a national contingency program aimed at countering the U.S. Government aggression. This must become the platform for a national liberation program. The program will entail the implementation and adoption of measures aimed at eliminating negative actions that have affected the state system's productivity and efficiency and, in turn, public employees' yield. The executive branch will consider recommendations that are the result of a national dialogue for the preparation of a national contingency program.

6. Referring to the private sector employees' situation, the state will provide appropriate supervision for the weaker part of the employee-management relationship, exerting itself to the utmost to prevent situations that affect employment sources or employees' rights brought about by overt or covert actions that only benefit political interests.

The government supervision will be part of the principles for the national contingency plan. The government will work diligently to ensure the implementation of plans, and will present to the legislative branch the necessary bills, which must be previously discussed with and approved by the National Council of Organized Workers, CONATO.

7. Referring to the situation of Air Panama International, a special commission will be formed to jointly seek alternatives that help resolve the technical, financial, and operational crisis currently being withstood by the company. The company's management, directorate board, and workers' union must participate in the search for alternatives, and the Civil Aviation Directorate will provide the appropriate technical supervision. The solution advocating a reduction of personnel, which was presented by the company's administration to the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, will be left pending while the appropriate analysis is carried out.

The points included in the agreement will be implemented by the executive branch on a unilateral basis with the intention of proving to government employees and the country in general the good faith that inspired its participation in the aforementioned negotiations.

The executive branch hopes a serene reflection will lead wise people to understand that this is not the time to create internal rifts and public chaos—which will only benefit the enemy—but to attain strong unity against the U.S. Government's unjustified aggression.

The executive branch reasserts to the citizenry in general its pledge to safeguard public order at all times by using the resources within its power, according to the Constitution and the law.

Panama City, 16 September 1988

Agreement Denied

PA1709000588 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2310 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Strikes continue in the public sector while the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees has stated no agreement has been reached with the executive branch. It also charged that some ill-intentioned individuals want to divide the leadership with false reports.

The rank and file of the public sector rejected the agreements signed last night by FENASEP and the executive branch because they were not consulted. The staggered 2-hour strikes that began last week to demand the payment of the 13th-month bonus and other requests were extended this morning to 4 hours. In some government institutions such as the National Institute of Telecommunications, the employees decided to extend the strikes to 8 hours. [passage omitted]

FENASEP Secretary General Hector Aleman said this afternoon there is no agreement between the government employees and the executive branch and the points established in a document were only agreed upon in principle:

[Begin Aleman recording] So far, there is no agreement with the national government. It can responsibly be said that in these 5 days of discussions, there has been agreement on some points, but so far there is no final agreement that is in line with the employees' majority position regarding our problems. [end recording]

Workers Reject Accord

PA1609152188 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1415 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Workers of several government organizations told RPC Radio that they reject the agreement reached yesterday by the FENASEP with the government. The workers claim that the agreement did not result from consultation with the various public employee associations and labor organizations.

In this regard, Comptroller's Office workers will hold a meeting soon to reaffirm their decision on this agreement.

The FENASEP and the Coordinating Board of State Agencies' Unions signed an agreement with the government whereby public workers will begin to receive the second half of the 13th-month bonus in October. Half of this payment will consist of checks without restrictions, and 25 percent of the other half will consist of checks with restrictions, which can be used by workers to pay their public utility bills.

Noriega, FENASEP Leaders Meet

PA1809194388 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1620 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] On Wednesday morning, General Manuel Antonio Noriega and members of his General Staff met with members of the National Federation of Associations of

Public Employees, FENASEP, and the Coordinating Board of State Agencies' Unions to discuss very important matters regarding the normalization of public services and, especially, the country's social tranquillity—despite difficult circumstances.

The meeting was charactarized by a discussion of broad topics. Emphasis was placed on the frank and permanent dialogue that has always existed between the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and the country's labor sectors.

Hector Aleman of FENASEP and Marcos Moscoso of the Coordinating Board, among others, explained in detail the reasons for the public servants' struggle and the obstacles that are preventing this sector's development as a national productive force. Assembly President Celso Carrizo also attended this meeting to seek solutions. Carrizo explained a procedure that could be followed to make one of the biggest dreams of public servants come true: the approval of the Civil Service Code.

The FDP General Staff members who participated in this meeting included Colonel Jose Santos Motta, director of the Port Authority, and Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Garibaldo, director of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, who explained the situation of the agencies under their responsibility.

There was general agreement on what the commander said regarding the interest that negative forces have in using the public servants' movement as another hidden ploy to influence the country's labor movements. The opinions voiced and the recommendations made were positive, frank, and respectful, and came in a climate of great willingness to solve delicate problems whose solutions cannot be postponed.

State Council Supports Solis

PA1809160988 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 18 Sep 88 p 1-A

[Text] The General State Council, which met yesterday in Cermeno, Capira, gave its wholehearted support to President Manuel Solis Palma's decision to keep government offices open, despite government employees' threats of going on strike.

It was also decided that the laws and regulations concerning government officials should be enforced uniformly against those who fail to perform their duties.

Furthermore, the Administrative Code provides that [a government employee's] unjustified absence for 3 days is cause for dismissal.

On a different matter, word has filtered down to the mass media that Hector Aleman has lost control of FENASEP. It is said that this organization is being run by the Workers Socialist Party (PST) and the Revolutionary Workers Party (PRT).

State Council Resolution

PA1909014988 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0039 GMT 19 Sep 88

["Resolution" issued by the General State Council in Cermeno, Capira district, Panama Province, on 17 September]

[Text] The General State Council, whereas:

The public employees have been called by organizations mired in confusion to go on an indefinite general strike beginning this coming Monday, in a vain attempt to forcefully achieve a change in the agreement negotiated in good faith with executive branch representatives and to impose unacceptable conditions that violate juridicial order;

Despite the deep fiscal crisis, the government has reiterated its pledge to honor the commitments agreed to in the negotiations with the legal representatives of the organized public employees, at the sacrifice of fulfilling other urgent and inescapable state obligations;

Those intent on promoting disorder have not heeded the calls to preserve calm and prudence and to maintain an attitude of unity in the face of the foreign aggression;

It is the inescapable duty of the government to guarantee all inhabitants of the country the safety of their lives and property and a climate of collective calm above the conduct of those who seek to replace civilized dialogue with de facto means;

The authorities are obliged to fulfill and ensure fulfillment of the Constitution and the laws by using all available resources;

Resolves:

1. To unreservedly support the actions of the executive branch, headed by His Excellency Manuel Solis Palma, and to reiterate his call to the productive, national, and patriotic sectors to reflection and to invite them to abstain from carrying out acts that would aid in increasing the escalation of political and economic aggression directed by the country's enemies.

2. To advise the entire nation of the purpose of the General State Council members to fulfill and ensure fulfillment of the Constitution and the laws, to preserve public order, and to guarantee the uninterrupted service provided by the official entities, acting with all the strength demanded by the circumstances.

3. To apply without discrimination the legal rules and work regulations in the public sector.

4. To call all members of the political parties that compose the Democratic National Union and other organizations that support the legitimate Government of the Republic of Panama, headed by Manuel Solis Palma, not to be confused and to support their authorities.

Cermeno, Panama, 17 September

Public Workers' Strike

PA1909011688 Paris AFP in Spanish 0014 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Text] Panama City, 18 Sep (AFP)—Some 125,000 public employees will go on an indefinite general strike tomorrow, demanding that the government "end corruption, pay the mid-year bonus, and approve a law to protect state employees."

Tomorrow's strike is the largest labor conflict faced by the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega since the political crisis broke out 15 months ago, according to analysts.

The National Federation of Associations of Public Employees (FENASEP), which is promoting the strike, staged continuous 2-hour strikes last week within the framework of protest actions in the public sector that ended on Friday with the rejection of a proposal by the government of Manuel Solis Palma and with the strike announcement.

The tensions caused by the delay in the 13th-month payment—which is paid in April, June, and December—and the deteriorated Panamanian economy, caused by the U.S.-imposed economic sanctions, heightened this weekend with the arrest of four port worker leaders and several student leaders.

Some 600 workers of Balboa port declared an indefinite general strike last week and were joined on Friday by 200 workers of Vacamonte port, 13 km from the capital.

The leaders were arrested on Friday by the authorities, AFP was told by a port worker leader, who noted that "we will go to the final consequences."

A presidential decree issued in March declared the water, electricity, telephone, railroad, and tax revenue public services to be of "national security," which permits Army troops to occupy them to guarantee their operation.

Meanwhile, 30 leaders of the Revolutionary Student Front (FER 29), who were occupying the National Institute rector's office since Monday, were evicted by force by riot units who entered the school this morning.

"There were arrests and wounded among the students who tried to escape through the windows," a relative of one of the arrested stated.

The students protested the decision of the Education Ministry to close the school indefinitely following a student protest that ended in skirmishes with the police.

The government proposed payment of 75 percent of the bonus pay in October and the remaining 25 percent before April 1989, control of corruption, and a dialogue to produce a national contingency plan.

The proposal was rejected by the labor federation.

Meanwhile, the General State Council resolved to support the government of Manuel Solis Palma and warned it will apply "the legal rules and regulations in the public sector."

In a statement issued today, the council said the public employees "have been called by organizations mired in confusion to go on an indefinite strike."

"Those intent on promoting disturbances have not heeded the calls to preserve the calm and prudence and to maintain an attitude of unity in the face of the foreign aggression," the communique added.

Balboa Port Workers Strike

PA1609154188 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 Sep 88 p A-1

[Text] Placing their own interests above those of the majority, Balboa port workers have been on strike for 4 days, causing the National Port Authority [APN] to lose income amounting to 121,000 balboas.

The government has made every possible effort to avoid ordering mass dismissals as the private sector has been forced to do. The less than constructive attitude of the Balboa port workers is not only detrimental to their own colleagues within the public sector, but creates a poor image of Panama—the country responsible for the efficient operation of the ports that have been reverted to Panama under the Torrijos-Carter treaties—at a time when this country is under heavy attack from the U.S. Government.

The APN would have received the aforementioned income if the workers had serviced the ships "Stella Lykes" and "Allyson Lykes" on Tuesday and Thursday, respectively, while they were anchored at the Panama Canal's south entrance.

In addition, no water, fuel, and launching service (for agents and ship chandlers) has been provided to 13 tuna boats.

Meanwhile, APN sources have reported that the 4 days during which the strike has been in effect constitutes 108,636.70-balboas worth in salaries payable to 746 administrative and operational employees at an average rate of 4.00 balboas per hour.

Workers Arrested, School Seized

PA1809211988 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1956 GMT 18 Sep 88

[Text] Panama City, 18 Sep (DPA)— Panamanian Government authorities dislodged a group of students from a high school and arrested several port workers who have been on strike for several weeks at Panama City's Balboa port.

Jose Manuel Faundes, lawyer of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, told DPA the Panamanian authorities dislodged a group of students and parents who had taken over the National Institute—Panama's main high school—6 days ago.

He added that the students were on strike in support of the public employees' protest demanding the 13th-month payment, a civil service code, and reorganization of the government.

Faundes added that "he learned the authorities have arrested at least four Port Authority workers'leaders—including Jose Avila, Eriberto Baca, Eugenio Tejada, and another leader named Garcia—accused of promoting a strike for an indefinite period, which is scheduled to start tomorrow organized by the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees (FENASEP).

In view of this alert, the General State Council told the citizens, through a communique, it will fully support President Manuel Solis Palma's guaranteeing public offices will not be affected; therefore, laws and regulations affecting striking employees will be applied.

Education Ministry Suspends 19 Sep Classes

PA1909003388 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Sep 88

[Communique issued by the Education Ministry on 18 September]

[Text] The Education Ministry advises the Panamanian community that because of the call for an indefinite strike of public employees made by a group of leaders in an attempt to forcefully change an agreement negotiated in good faith with executive branch representatives to guarantee commitments agreed to with the national organization of public employees, and in view of possible actions that might generate disturbances by groups that have refused to maintain prudence and unity in the face of the foreign aggression and the deep crisis it has caused in the country, the Education Ministry has decided to suspend classes on Monday, 19 September, in all the official and private schools of Panama City, La Chorrera, San Miguelito, and Colon. This measure is aimed at preserving the safety and tranquillity of the students, administrative personnel, and parents, and to guarantee a fruitful and complete school year.

Station Criticizes U.S. Use of 'Lies'

PA1609181288 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1655 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Station commentary: "The United States and Its Use of Lies]

[Text] Events indicate that the United States has decided to avail itself of lies and that its attitude toward the practically nonexistent relations with our country grows clumsier by the day. We say this because not a single week goes by that the international news agencies, which serve as U.S. State Department spokesmen, do not publish some ghastly White House announcement. The most recent announcement states that the U.S. Department of Defense has disclosed that it has decreased the number of months that a married soldier must remain stationed in Panama because of the constant harassment they experience from the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]. Without even blushing, the U.S. authorities have simultaneously fired off two lies.

First, the so-called FDP harassment of U.S. soldiers has been repeatedly denied by representatives of the U.S. Southern Command, which is illegally stationed along the banks of the Panama Canal.

Second, if they have decided to decrease the number of soldiers in our country, it is because this is established in the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The treaties state that as time goes by, the number of U.S. troops must decrease and the FDP must be given more involvement [in the defense of the Panama Canal].

By decreasing the period of time that their officers and soldiers must remain in Panama, the Pentagon is opening the possibility of reducing its number of soldiers in the country and adjusting it to the number established in the treaties, a number the United States surpassed without justification. This would be doing the right thing. Better yet, they would be correcting a recent mistake, or violation.

However, it is immoral that this measure has been taken based on already denied lies and accusations, like the so-called FDP aggression against gringo personnel. To make these corrections by using bad and false motives is proof that they are not doing it in accordance with the treaties. This makes us suspicious about the United States' real attitude regarding the treaties. What we ask is that they recognize and abide by the treaties, that they do not make corrections based on lies that they use to continue their campaign to discredit Panama.

The repeated use of lies by the U.S. Government against Panama is proof that the U.S. authorities have no respect for themselves or the world. This makes us think that mankind can expect nothing from the government of a powerful nation that has stooped to such low levels that it ignores the agreements it has signed with other nations. What a terrible future world peace faces if the United States does not correct its unstable attitude.

Columnist on Possible U.S. Military Action

PA1609212388 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 15 Sep 88 p 4

["Political Coliseum" column by Baltazar Renan Aizourua: "We Are Experiencing Crucial Months (Part II and Final)"]

[Excerpts] The Hemispheric Affairs Council (COHA) stated in its 8 September document: "George Bush and other Republican Party candidates (senators and congressmen) feel a dramatic need to get rid of Noriega before election day, which would be as satisfying for them as Ortega's overthrow would be for Reagan. This

dramatic action would earn them bipartisan popularity and would have a lower political and military cost. [quotation mark as published]

This is the way "the establishment" thinks. When election time comes around, Republicans and Democrats think in terms of "popularity." They do not care if they have to call on their "Marines" to kill or commit the most brutal crimes in countries they deem weak and helpless, if this will get them what they want. We are not the only ones who say this. Regardless who wins the upcoming U.S. presidential elections—Dukakis or Bush—we, the Panamanian people, must be ready and willing to resist for an extended period of time the pressures they will exert and ambushes they will set, which are aimed at disregarding the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

COHA analysts feel it is unlikely and unreasonable that an invasion of Nicaragua will occur or the U.S. Armed Forces will support a coup d'etat in Panama. However, it does not mean these two options can be completely ruled out. [passage omitted]

Among the signs suggesting a "surprise in October," the COHA statement mentions the following: the visit by Morton Abramowitz, assistant secretary [of state] for intelligence and research, to meet with Panamanian opposition leaders; the resolutions submitted by Representative Philip Crane and Senator Steve Symms to their respective chambers, requesting the abolishment of the Torrijos-Carter treaties; the arrival of B-52 bombers at Howard Air Force Base; "cassette President" Delvalle's visit to the United States; and so forth.

The most dangerous period will be during the recess the U.S. Congress will take in October for the presidential elections. If the polls show Bush lagging seriously behind his political opponent Dukakis, and if his political advisers feel deployment of U.S. troops in Latin America could earn them popularity, they could easily decide to go ahead with the operation. I have made note of the COHA message, and I hope the rest of the Panamanians will do as much. If you are afraid, get yourself a dog.

U.S. Presence 'Negates' Canal Neutrality

PA1909040088 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 18 Sep 88 pp 14-A, 8-A

[Article by Nils Castro: "Panama's Defense of a Panamanian Canal: An Armed Forces for National Liberation and Development"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] No force stationed on the banks of the canal, no matter how strong, could prevent a missile attack on the passageway launched from outside Panamanian territory. Whoever wants to protect the Panama Canal from this sort of attack need not or should not do so from Panamanian territory. However, there are enough Panamanian forces to protect the local canal facilities or strongly defend them from inside our territory.

The neutrality of the country, the passageway, and adjacent waters constitute the chief guarantee for the security of the canal and the ships that use it. The quality and universality of the services the canal renders are also a guarantee. Panama has no enemies or reason to have them. The presence of foreign forces—alien to the national interest and coming from a power that has often been involved in rivalries and conflicts—negates that neutrality, imperils the canal's safety, and hampers its efficiency.

Moreover, the permanence of large military bases on the banks of the canal, besides being of little use for its defense, a risk to its security, and dangerous for navigation, is senseless from the viewpoint of the economy. The neighboring areas, now monopolized in this unproductive use, are among the most valuable because of their thousands of industrial possibilities, based on a deep-water port system for the two oceans that is accessible, clean, and linked to the world's chief maritime routes. [passage omitted]

The Panamanian military view regarding the canal's protection and defense is more logical and up-to-date than the U.S. view, because the Panamanian view adheres to its objective and is not subordinate to—nor distorted by—extraterritorial hegemonic goals. In the Panamanian view, the protection of the passageway requires a specific (and specialized) police and military component within the area of the canal's facilities. It also requires an overall military component to strongly protect the canal. The overall component is also responsible for preserving the country's integrity, sovereignty, self-determination, and the other resources that compose the national patrimony. [passage omitted]

This civilian and military view is also logical and up-to-date because it fulfills the political and diplomatic doctrine on which it is based. Foremost, it recognizes that the security of the canal (and the other interoceanic duties) rests on the neutrality of the country and the waterway, in the demilitarized nature of its operations, and subsequent universality of its services. The canal's services must equally interest and serve all the nations of the world. The only one to offer such security is the sovereign country; that is, the country that has no enemies. No foreign force, regardless of its origin or nature, can offer security. [passage omitted]

In sum, the objectives of guaranteeing the departure of U.S. troops and preserving the country's sovereignty, self-determination, neutrality, and patrimony justify the existence of the Panamanian Armed Forces. Those objectives are as political and diplomatic as strictly military. In other words, these forces exist to face the social need to eliminate the consequences of colonialism and neocolonialism. Outside that, they are forces of public order and civic action. This is no mean feat considering that Panama is an isthmus located among strife-torn worlds. [passage omitted]

Unlike other nations on the subcontinent, Panama is duty-bound to engage in an endless struggle for its national liberation. This struggle demands that it develop a military force with specific social characteristics not only to complete building a national state but to guarantee its territorial integrity, sovereignty, self-determination, and the proper compliance with the treaties. Without these elements, the very existence of the nation would be in doubt. [passage omitted]

Canal Administrator's Actions Criticized

PA1609220488 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 16 Sep 88 p 4

["The Popular Compass" column by Adolfo Benedetti: "Open Letter to General McAuliffe"]

[Text] General Dennis McAuliffe [administrator of the Panama Canal Commission (PCC)]:

During the 1977 (Torrijos-Carter) treaty ratification process with the United States, you supported it because the causes of conflict between the two countries endangered the canal's operation.

You know very well that one of those causes of conflict, very closely tied to the sentiments of the Panamanian canal workers, was the discrimination inherent in the U.S. employees' privilege to purchase goods in the commercial establishments operated by the United States in the canal area.

That offensive discrimination was to disappear on 1 October 1984, as clearly stated in the treaty. However, in violation of the canal agreement, 20 PCC officials continued to enjoy the privilege, including yourself.

On 1 April 1988, after negotiations with you, William Gianelli, Michael Rhode, and several congressmen; the complicity of Juan B. Sosa; and in flagrant violation of the treaty, the privilege to buy food was reestablished for all U.S. PCC employees.

The cause of conflict has been reestablished, this time aggravated because it is a result of arrogance, arbitrary action, and a shameful violation of the treaty.

I ask you, Gen McAuliffe, a graduate of West Point with a meritorious military career record: Are you proud of what you did? I do not know what you may answer, but I can tell you that you are staining your service record for the sake of maintaining some privileges that produce savings because of price differences.

Those savings, which surely will end up in your personal savings account, detract from your authority to oppose the demands of the Zonians that their privileges be restored and now makes it impossible for you to discontinue them.

Having lost moral strength by taking these actions of scant value is what has prompted individuals like Michael Rhode, who should be loyal subordinate, to go over your head with the support of William Gianelli, losing all respect for you and assuming functions characteristic of the canal administrator.

Gen McAuliffe, you can also make corrections.

Republican Party Vice President Arrested

PA1709202588 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1852 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Report by correspondent Mayin Correa]

[Text] Eng Dominador Kaiser Bazan was arrested at 2330 last night by agents of Noriega's military dictatorship in Panama. Bazan is vice president of Panama's Republican Party and former Panamanian ambassador to Washington. Engineer Bazan is a member of the party presided over by deposed President Eric Arturo Delvalle.

State security agents—Noriega's gestapo—went to his home at 2330 last night in La Cresta's residential district in central Panama City and advised him that he was under arrest without further explanation.

Bazan was appointed foreign minister by Delvalle in February 1988 when he [Delvalle] fired Panama's narcotics smuggling dictator [General Manuel Antonio Noriega]. Over the past few weeks, Bazan had been lodging charges against the Panamanian narco-military dictatorship. Today, Saturday, a Republican Party meeting was planned in Panama City, and it was expected to result in a purge within the party of some members who had expressed support for the dictator Noriega, who is hiding [as heard] President Delvalle—the party president. Bazan's relatives have conjectured that the weekend arrest—which is customary behavior by the Panamanian dictatorship—is to prevent Bazan from being present at the Republican Party meeting.

We will continue to report on Bazan's fate. It has not been reported what jail he is in or how long he will stay there. Over the past 18 months, as the repression of the Panamanian dictatorship has increased, arrests have usually been made on Friday nights, when courts and the media are closed, thus providing no opportunity to report on political arrests. Almost every Friday, Noriega's gestapo makes arrests, most of them for political reasons.

Charges Filed

PA1909142688 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 Sep 88 pp 1, 18

[Text] Dominador Kaiser Bazan has been detained and is currently in the custody of the Attorney General's Office, charged with a crime specified in the Republic of Panama's Penal Code.

Kaiser Bazan has been formally charged with usurpation of public functions and attempting to commit a crime against the state. The case is being handled by prosecutor Alvaro Visuetti from the Attorney General's Office.

Bazan is charged with usurping the functions of foreign minister, and, along with Eric Arturo Delvalle, Bazan is charged with signing a number of false decrees allowing the U.S. Government to not recognize Panamanian consuls accredited in that country and to only recognize the authority of Juan B. Sosa [Panamanian ambassador to the United States appointed by Eric Delvalle].

Through these actions, Panama has been deprived of its legitimate use of funds in accounts belonging to the National Bank of Panama, of canal annuity payments, and of taxes from U.S. companies, including payments from Panama's Petroterminales, which is a joint enterprise of the U.S. and Panamanian Governments.

Although U.S. authorities have said that those funds are deposited in Delvalle's account for official use, it has been learned that large sums have been withdrawn for unknown purposes.

Republican Party Members Demonstrate at Meeting
PA1809142488 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] The Republican Party rank and file demonstrated this morning in front of the Costa Inn, the new site of the Republican Party leadership's meeting, called by Mr Eric Arturo Delvalle. The demonstrators asked that their views be taken into consideration in making party decisions and shouted slogans against ranking Republican Party leaders who support Delvalle. At the time of the demonstration, several party members were near the Costa Inn, including legislator Raul Delvalle, Eric Delvalle's brother.

Leopoldo Alguero, secretary general of the Republican Party, questioned the legality of today's meeting, saying that it was doubtful that Delvalle had called the meeting, because for several months they have not had any communication with him and the party leadership does not even know his current whereabouts.

Minister on Respect for Private Enterprise
PA1609223088 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Sep 88

["Excerpt" of speech by Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni at a political-economic seminar held by the Democratic Revolutionary Party's Managerial Front; date and place not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...we cannot damage a political opponent's business simply because he opposes us. Laws should and must be the same for all citizens, be they friends or enemies. The government belongs to all citizens—friends and enemies. If we govern for friends and only apply the law to our opponents, we will, in fact, be forcing businessmen to carry an additional burden that will only make them stand back and not participate. The businessman who in good faith wants to participate in politics will simply abandon politics. He will leave politics to those who have nothing to lose or, worse yet, to those opportunists—many of us have encountered people like this in different settings—who see politics as a modern way of making profits. If a businessman should not participate in politics simply because he has economic power, likewise politicians should not take advantage of a businessman simply because he is economically vulnerable.

Some of you may ask: Can a businessman who participates in politics divorce himself from the profit-oriented training he has received and not set himself up to make personal gains when he reaches positions of power? I believe he can. I believe the way anyone who reaches a position of power will act depends on his principles and moral values. Corruption is not the exclusive province of businessmen. Businessmen can be corrupt, but so can workers, farmers, lawyers, military men, and even priests. That is why campaigns to recover our moral values are so important. That is why it is important for every adult Panamanian to participate in civic affairs. That is why it is important for citizens to participate in civic clubs, foundations, and associations. That is why is is important for us to strengthen our educational system, our churches, our families, and our homes.

We cannot allow politics to absorb everything. Each time we are caught in a whirlwind of confusion we cannot attack civic clubs and business groups, foundations, and associations. We cannot try to destroy them without giving them a chance to correct the errors they have made. Although Panamanian businessmen are presently going through their worst economic crisis, we can easily understand their political confusion. Unfortunately, they did not take the proper position when the political opening toward democracy took place and political parties were formed. Most Panamanian businessmen stayed out of politics during the past 10 years. Businessmen, however, were worried about the political mistakes made during our democratization. These mistakes have meant two constitutional reforms in 10 years and six presidents in that same period. In addition, the serious problems in our moral values, education, and the state's political integrity caused them to hurriedly participate in politics. In their innocence—this is my assumption—they proceeded to involve business groups, foundations, and associations in their endeavor. They made a mistake when they broke a basic rule by politicizing organizations that are by nature apolitical. Considering all these errors, and because I am an optimist, I still see something very beneficial: Businessmen are more aware today than ever before that they have to participate in politics. Our country's history is filled with outstanding businessmen who participated in politics and who were not dishonest, corrupt, or discredited.

Argentina

World Bank Head Meets Alfonsin, Confirms Loans

PY1709000388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2211 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (NA)—World Bank President Barber Conable this afternoon extended his support to the so-called "spring plan." He also confirmed that in the next few days the World Bank will announce a schedule of new loans to Argentina.

After a meeting with President Alfonsin at the Olivos residence Conable was asked if the debt would be pardoned. Conable answered: "The debt is a real fact."

Court Upholds Alfonsin, Caridi on Vercellotti

PY1809214888 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 Sep 88 p 11

[Text] (DYN)—The Administrative Litigation Court yesterday decided to uphold President Raul Alfonsin's request that Major Osvaldo Vercellotti be placed on the availability list and suspended from the Military War College as ordered by Army Chief-of-Staff Dante Caridi.

The decision thereby ended a controversial situation which pitted the powers of the Armed Forces against those of the civilian court system. The controversy started when Vercellotti turned to the courts in an effort to have his commanding officer's orders reversed.

Vercellotti argued that Caridi's decision to suspend him from his studies because of alleged subversive activities was "arbitrary and irrational." On September 2, Judge Oscar Garzon Funes ruled in Vercellotti's favour, stating that the Major should be allowed to return to his studies.

This prompted Alfonsin to intervene and ask the courts to sustain Caridi's original orders.

Yesterday, Judges Roberto Mordeglia, Rafael Gonzalez Arzac and Guillermo Munoz moved to support Alfonsin's request.

But the judges reserved the right to overrule a military administrative decision if these are proved to be "arbitrary and irrational" according to the military code of justice.

With regard to the decision made by Funes, the judges said it could not be upheld because Caridi's orders were not considered to be arbitrary.

Caridi Orders Rico To Respond on Proclamation

PY1609232288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1156 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (NA)—Lieutenant General Jose Dante Caridi, Army chief of staff, has sent former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico a legal order "to confirm or deny" the terms of a proclamation attributed to him zin which he exhorts his comrades "to overcome the adversity" because "the situation in the fatherland is becoming increasingly difficult."

Rico's document was interpreted as being a virtual call to his comrades to stage a coup d'etat. Military sources yesterday revealed that Caridi, "using the proper channels," sent Rico, currently incarcerated in Magdalena Prison, a legal order to confirm or deny what is stated in the document that circulated in several military units on infantry day.

A high-ranking Army source has confirmed that the issue "is being investigated to confirm if the document is authentic. If the document is authentic, it is a very serious matter."

The source added that "the civilian courts will probably hear the case if the investigation confirms the authenticity of the statements attributed to Rico."

In the proclamation, Rico criticized the Army leadership and the current government, charging that the latter wanted "to destroy the Republic."

In one of the paragraphs of the proclamation Rico calls on his comrades "to overcome the adversity" and seize political power. This statement was interpreted as a virtual call to his comrades to stage a coup d'etat.

On 14 September, Defense Ministry sources said that the ministry's legal department had began studying the possibility of filing legal charges against Rico for alleged violation of the Defense of Democracy Law.

The civilians who participated in the attempt to seize the metropolitan airport were tried under this law.

"First we have to confirm whether Rico is really the author of the document," a Defense Ministry source said. The source added that the legal department will have to summon Rico, who remains in custody at Magdalena Prison, to confirm the authenticity of the document.

Military spokesmen said the appropriate procedure is for the Army leadership to "summon" Rico. No further details were revealed.

Rico Refuses To Comply

PY1709030488 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1610 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (NA)—According to a high-ranking military source, Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico has refused to confirm or deny the terms of a proclamation that constituted a virtual call to his comrades to stage a coup d'etat. Rico also refused to sign a statement to the effect that he had refused to confirm or deny the proclamation. In making his refusal, Rico cited his constitutional rights. The proclamation can now be considered "libelous," according to the source. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Communique on Strike Incidents

PY1609172088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0244 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Sep (TELAM)—The Interior Ministry believes that the incidents that took place last Friday during a CGT [General Confederation of Workers]-sponsored rally at Plaza de Mayo were provoked by groups advocating violence. These groups, taking advantage of the anonymity offered by the workers rally, impaired the rally and wreaked havoc through acts of vandalism and looting.

In a 3-page communique on the disorders, the Interior Ministry states that the Executive Branch has ordered administrative investigations to determine whether the forces of order took the correct steps in defusing the incidents.

The communique, which was released tonight at the Government House press room, states that the outcome of the disorders is as follows: 115 people—41 policemen and 74 civilians—were injured; 6 private and 6 police patrol cars were damaged; 35 stores were looted; and 6 public buildings were damaged.

The communique states that, before the beginning of the rally, incidents were reported at the intersection of Belgrano and 9 de Julio Avenues when a group of some 40 people threw stones and other objects at buses transporting the demonstrators.

The communique adds that during these incidents the policemen involved were attacked, four policemen were injured, two patrol cars were damaged, and two people, who have been indicted, were detained.

The communique states that, according to the information supplied by the Argentine Federal Police, a total of 1,815 policemen, who patrolled 136 blocks between Callao, Entre Rios, Belgrano, Madero, and Corrientes Avenues, 12 observation towers, and 33 plainclothesmen were involved in the operation.

The communique adds that after the incidents at the intersection of Belgrano and 9 de Julio Avenues, a group of about 60 people damaged hanging plants and windows in the Perez Compac building, located at the intersection of Rivadavia and Maipu Avenues. The demonstrators were unable to enter the building, however, thanks to the policemen who tried to restore calm, but were violently attacked by the same group that started the incidents. Several policemen were injured.

The communique notes that after the incidents at the Perez Compac building, the disorder and brawls spread and several stores and buildings throughout the downtown area were looted and damaged.

The communique emphasizes that the incidents are being investigated by the 3d criminal and correctional federal court of first instance headed by Dr Nestor Biondi. The case is being handled by Eduardo Daffis Niklison. The charges include public intimidation, attacking and resisting an officer, arson, larceny, causing of damage and injuries, and use of weapons.

The Interior Ministry communique praises the police action intended to restore public order and preserve the integrity and security of people and property. It also points out that these incidents were provoked by groups advocating violence. These groups, taking advantage of the anonymity offered by the workers rally, impaired the rally and wreaked havoc through acts of vandalism and looting.

The communique states that the Executive Branch has contributed and will fully contribute to helping the Judicial Branch successfully conduct its investigations. The Executive Branch also announced that it has ordered administrative investigations to determine whether the forces of order took the correct steps in defusing the incidents.

'Powerful Bomb' Destroys Electrical Tower

PY1609211288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2042 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (NA)—Police sources have confirmed that a powerful bomb today destroyed a high-voltage electrical tower in General Las Heras District, south of Buenos Aires Province.

The sources also said Buenos Aires police deactivated another bomb, but did not reveal any details.

Additional details concerning the bomb attack on the electrical tower or the consequences for the power supply are not yet known.

Drug Gang Leader Arrested in Cordoba

PY1709115988 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1620 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (DYN)—Police sources reported that a drug trafficker—the gang leader who smuggled 550 kg of cocaine into the country in July, in what was called "Operation Shrimp"—has been arrested.

The arrest was made in a luxurious residence in Cerro de las Rosas, a posh neighborhood in the city of Cordoba. The raid was conducted by a Federal Police "dangerous drugs" squad.

The sources said that the person arrested was Carlos Alberto Diaz, adding that the clue that led to his arrest was linked to the discovery of 1.2 tons of cocaine in the port of Philadelphia, United States.

The cocaine was found on board the ship "Columbus," which was flying the German [not further identified] flag. The ship arrived in Philadelphia from an Argentine port, probably Mar del Plata.

The 1.2 tons of cocaine were hidden inside 44,000 tins of anchovies packed in 1,000 cardboard boxes that were presumably being exported to the United States from Argentina.

The sources explained that during "Operation Shrimp" 550 kg of pure cocaine were seized at a warehouse in Avellaneda and a pickup truck was found abandoned at 9 de Julio Avenue. Several people, but not the gang leader, were also arrested. The latter was subsequently picked up in Cordoba.

Bolivia

Planning Minister Sanchez de Lozada Resigns

PY1609120688 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Planning Minister Sanchez de Lozada has tendered his resignation to President Paz Estenssoro. As a result of the planning minister's resignation, other ministers may do the same. This will allow President Paz Estenssoro to appoint a new cabinet that will work with him to the end of his administration.

Sanchez de Lozada has said: I cannot be planning minister and MNR presidential candidate at the same time. He added that it will be up to President Victor Paz Estenssoro to decide when he will leave the cabinet.

Sanchez de Lozada said: The ideal would be for me to leave the Planning Ministry by the end of September so I can start campaigning as soon as possible.

However, he said he has some doubts about the time of his departure in view of the upcoming IMF and World Bank meetings. He said this will be the proper time for Bolivia to revise IMF and World Bank agreements to refinance the bilateral debt within the Paris Club in October.

Official Views Charges Regarding Cocaine Lab

PY1609152388 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Anibal Aguilar Gomez, under secretary of alternative development and substitution of coca crops, has stated the report released by an international news agency to the effect the United States might be protecting a cocaine laboratory in Huanchaca has affected Bolivia's image abroad.

Aguilar, the third most important man on the antidrug committee, said the positive effects of the antidrug struggle should also be taken into account. He added that the antidrug committee has assigned tasks in some areas, and that rather than seeking the elimination of coca farms, these tasks have concentrated on the enforcement of the Law of Special Regulations on Coca and Controlled Substances. He noted that the problem of drug trafficking affects the entire country.

[Begin Aguilar recording] After the progress we have made to eliminate the coca crops and promote development, this report undoubtedly affects our image both at home and abroad. I think the positive aspects of our work should also be taken into account. I believe the major factor is the fact that we have concentrated on [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Aguilar then discussed several projects being carried out in the Chapare area, adding that Villa Tunari will have drinking water in the short term and new roads will be built in the area as part of the coca substitution program.

Minister on U.S. Firm's Use of FAB Planes

PY1609145188 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpts] The LAB [Lloyd Bolivian Airline] has commemorated its 63d anniversary amid an austerity program. The main ceremonies were attended by Aeronautics Minister Jaime Zegada Hurtado, lawmakers, LAB directors, and special guests. [passage omitted]

Radio Panamericana asked Minister Zegada Hurtado about the economic terms and the operational conditions agreed upon for the FAB [Bolivian Air Force] planes leased to a U.S. company operating in Africa.

[Begin Zegada Hurtado recording] The FAB planes were leased to a U.S. company, which flies to Africa to take provisions and supplies that, I believe, are delivered as aid to some Angolan towns. Those are the conditions. They pay the insurance and they will pay for any damage that may be caused to the planes in case of a problem—let's hope this will not happen. I believe that one of the planes is about to be returned. [end recording]

In this regard, LAB labor leaders stated they will demand that a complete report, including the terms of the contract, be released to the public.

Brazil

Sarney To Announce Debt Moratorium Lifting 21 Sep

PY1709002188 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Report by economic commentator Paulo Enrique Amorim]

[Text] President Sarney will summon a special session of the National Security Council for the morning of 21 September. He will officially announce the end of the moratorium on interest payment on the Brazilian foreign debt.

It was also at the National Security Council, 1 and ½ years ago, that Sarney announced Brazil's moratorium on its foreign debt interest payments.

On the afternoon of 21 September, the National Monetary Council will cancel Resolution No 1263, which established that all currency exchange operations should be made in the Central Bank.

On 22 September, Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega will sign an agreement on the foreign debt with the creditor banks.

With these three acts next week, Brazil will reestablish normal relations witht the international economic community.

Military 'Not Eager' To Warm Ties With USSR

PY1909002388 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Sep 88

[Text] Brasilia—Despite the enthusiasm for the changes occurring in the Soviet Union, the Brazilian Armed Forces are still not yet eager to rush into agreements and understanding with the Soviets.

Though rapprochement is being carefully studied, and Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves has been included in President Sarney's entourage, there exists only a remote idea of the two countries exchanging military attaches.

Minister Leonidas Pires himself has said he personally is not interested in purchasing any type of military equipment from the Soviet Union, but he did admit that the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA) is evaluating that possibility. The EMFA has not yet given its opinion on the matter.

Aeronautics Minister Brigadier Moreira Lima said he has absolutely no knowledge of an agreement between the Armed Forces of the two countries, and he was very sceptical regarding the signing of a protocol on the exchange of military attaches.

"Installing an attache at that level is very costly and we do not have the resources. This matter has remained shelved, and when we have to decide between sending military attaches to the PRC or to the Soviet Union, we will choose to send them to the former country, where we have more immediate interests," he explained.

New Plane Developed in Project With Argentina

PY1609181888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0346 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 15 Sep (TELAM-DPA)—The CBA-123 plane, built under a joint Argentine-Brazilian project, will replace the Bandeirantes and Xingu planes, which for several years have been exported to Latin American countries, Europe, and the United States by the state-run company Brazilian Aeronautics Company (EMBRAER).

According to EMBRAER Assistant Technical Director Walter Barcels, the company will continue to produce the Bandeirantes and Xingu planes until next year, and EMBRAER will complete the production of 500 Bandeirantes and 100 Xingu planes. The new CBA-123, which will also be used for regional air transport, will be (?put on) the market in 1991.

Barcels also made it clear that the development and production of the first CBA-123 planes, which are more modern and sophisticated than the Bandeirantes and Xingu planes, will cost Brazil and Argentina approximately $300 million.

Barcels concluded by saying that the CBA-123 19-seater plane has more room, makes less noise, is more comfortable, and will be able to fly at a speed of 650 km per hour, in comparison with the Bandeirantes, which flies at a speed of 420 km per hour.

'Record' August Trade Balance Surplus Reported

PY1709011788 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 17 Sep 88

[All figures as heard]

[Excerpt] The balance of trade surplus in August was a record amount, surpassing $2 billion, according to a report from the CACEX [Foreign Trade Department]

In August Brazil exported $3.4 billion, and imported $1.4 billion. The difference was $2.069 billion.

The accumulated trade surplus from January to August 1988, amounts to $12.6 billion, which is double that of the same period last year. [passage omitted]

Chile

Liberal Group Mission To Oversee Plebiscite

PY1809021688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1622 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Pisa, Italy, 17 Sep (TELAM-EFE; ANSA)—The fairness of the Chilean plebiscite was the main subject of debates by Liberal International (IL), which today ended a 3-day session analyzing the international situation.

At the final session today, representatives of the 52 member parties confirmed the election of former Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez as vice president of Latin American affairs of the IL, and as president of the IL mission that will oversee the 5 October plebiscite in Chile.

Suarez will also act as spokesman and coleader of the multiparty international observation mission to Chile that is being sponsored by the U.S. Democratic Party, a member of the IL. The other coleaders will be Misael Pastrana and Belisario Betancur from Colombia, and Oswaldo Hurtado from Ecuador. Fifty former heads of state or government, political leaders, and election experts will participate in the international mission that will travel to Chile on 4 October, and later prepare a report on the fairness of the plebiscite to be relased worldwide.

The IL congress approved today a resolution on Chile, expressing concern over the restriction imposed by the Pinochet regime on the opposition, and saying that a no-vote victory would mark the real political transition to democracy in that country. [passage omitted]

Ministry Spokesman Comments

PY1609190988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 126 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Carlos Ducci has said that a multiparty delegation made up of 50 former heads of state, who will come to Chile for the upcoming plebiscite, will have to come as tourists, like any foreigner who wants to enter our country during the plebiscite.

Former Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, who will be the multiparty delegation spokesman, has announced in Italy the delegation's visit.

Suarez said that the multiparty delegation members will be dispersed throughout the Chilean cities where the voting stations will operate on the day of the plebiscite.

Official Report on Voter Registration Issued

PY1709010288 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] The Electoral Service has officially announced that 7,435,913 citizens have been registered throughout the country to vote in the upcoming plebiscite.

This total includes 3,609,454 male voters and 3,826,459 female voters.

The largest number of voters is concentrated in the Metropilitan Region. A total of 2,949,341 citizens, or 39.66 percent of the total, are registered in this region.

The 8th Region has the second largest number of registered voters—959,663—and the 5th Region has the third largest number—800,447 voters.

The official report, which is a preliminary one, does not mention the number of people whose registrations were canceled for various reasons.

Economic Group Praises Pinochet's Policy

PY1809013488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1647 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Santiago, 17 Sep (EFE)—In its latest report, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) says that the economic policy of the Pinochet regime is "expansionary and coherent."

Pinochet, 73, who has been in power since the violent ouster and assassination of constitutional President Salvador Allende on 11 September 1973, is the single candidate in the 5 October plebiscite. At that time 7.4 million Chilean voters will decide whether Pinochet will hold the presidency until 1997.

Three weeks before the plebiscite, CEPAL, which is headquartered in Santiago, published an annual report on the economic performance of nine Latin American countries, including a very favorable assessment of the Pinochet government's economic policy.

The CEPAL report says: "Exports reached unprecedented figures; the current account of the balance of payments closed with a surplus for the first time since 1976; international reserves increased; and the foreign debt decreased." It adds that "an economic policy more expansionary than in previous years was implemented, perhaps to pave the way for the plebiscite to be held in the last quarter of this year."

The economic organization of the United Nations, quoting official data, notes that the value of Chilean exports in the first half of this year was 43 percent higher than the same period last year. "This phenomenon," the report continues, "was helped greatly by the strong increase in the international price of copper, a product that represents 40 percent of the country's total exports, as well as by an increase in the price of industrial exports."

According to CEPAL, the current account of the balance of payments "experienced a turnabout" from a deficit of nearly $580 million in the first half of 1987 to a surplus of $100 million in the first half of this year.

The CEPAL report then adds that "a greater easing on the external front and consistent macroeconomic management have made possible a solid expansion of economic activities." The report notes that in the firt half of this year, the GDP climbed 5.8 percent, employment rose 4 percent, and "the state revenues increased sharply."

This increase in the state revenues allowed the government to reduce customs tariffs from 20 to 15 percent, to cut the special tax on fuels, and to pare the value added tax (EVA) from 20 to 16 percent. "The measures together," the CEPAL report says, "amount to an annual relinquishment of fiscal resources equivalent to more than 3 percent of the GDP, which, thanks to the aforementioned increased revenues, will not jeopardize this year's fiscal balance."

The report also nots that "the reduction in taxes and tariffs, together with the reduction in the domestic prices of oil and wheat—in a context of the public sector's balanced accounts—have helped bring inflation down." Between January and November of last year, inflation climbed "slightly" to an annual rate of 23 percent. It then began to decline "continually" to 5.9 percent in the first 8 months of this year, resulting in an cumulative 12-month inflation rate of 13 percent.

In its report, CEPAL adds that "the slowdown in the rate of inflation and the growth in employment, in turn, helped to boost real salaries significantly for the first time since 1981." In the first 7 months of this year average real salaries were 6.8 percent higher than in the same period last year.

The CEPAL report says that the Chilean foreign debt of $20 billion was reduced by $700 million during the first 7 months of 1988, through operations to convert debt notes held by the international banks. Between January and July of this year, these operations, which began in 1985, amounted to $1.29 billion, a figure that compensates for additional debts contracted so far this year.

Youths Involved in No-Vote Spots Detained, Beaten

PY1809034688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2047 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Santiago, 17 Sep (EFE)—Two youths who participated in the opposition propaganda that is broadcast daily on a television network were detained and beaten by the Carabineros, who accused them of burning an office of the supporters of the official candidate, General Augusto Pinochet.

The newspaper LA EPOCA, which published this report in today's issue, identified the youths as Rodrigo Oliva and Martin Miranda.

The report adds that on 9 September, 24 hours after the youths appeared on a television program supporting the no-vote, four plainclothes Carabineros (militarized police) detained the two youths without showing them any badge of warrant. [passage omitted]

They were taken to a police precinct office, where the Carabineros beat them all night without asking them anything. They accused the youths of burning an office of the supporters of the regime.

The two youths were released the next day. However, a few hours later they were detained again and taken to the police precinct, where they were beat on the testicles and other parts of their bodies and a water hose was stuck in their mouths.

Later, the youths were taken to a penitentiary in Melipilla, 60 km northwest of Santiago, and placed at the disposal of the local court, which ordered that they be released for lack of evidence. [passage omitted]

Humanist Party President Rejects New Coalition

PY1709191488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Tomas Hirsch, the current president of the Humanist Party, has openly criticized the Christian Democratic Party for having created a coalition called the Democatic Opposition Group,. Hirsch said that this is not the right time to establish coalitions for future governments.

Hirsch, who heads the Humanist Party, the registration of which was recently canceled by the electoral court, has met with leaders of the so-called United Left, who expressed to him their support and solidarity with the situation the party is facing because of the political party law.

Despite the fact that Hirsch has refused to admit it, it is known that the Christian Democrat's decision to form a future government with the Silva-Cimma-led radicals and four minor groups has created great unrest in the opposition Marxist sector and caused Humanist Party members to shift toward the left.

Political observers believe the creation of a political group within the opposition is a clear warning to the sectors led by socialist Ricardo Lagos, who also expressed his disappointment over the creation of the Democratic Oposition Group.

The agreement of the Democratic Opposition Group, which will be signed on 21 September, might cause a break within the opposition, which is already divided because of the marked influence of Marxists in the campaign for the no-vote.

Woman Killed in Santiago Shantytown Disturbance

PY1809015088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1935 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Santiago, 17 Sep (EFE)—A 28-year-old Chilean woman died early this morning after being wounded in disturbances involving police forces and residents of a Santiago shantytown. [passage omitted]

Eyewitnesses at the Colon Oriente shantytown said the incidents began when three Carabineros tried to arrest Jose Alejandro Lagos for not carrying his identification card.

Relatives and friends of the yough tried to prevent the Carabineros from arresting him, and this provoked the disturbances.

The policemen were supported by a Carabineros van. According to the eyewitnesses, the Carabineros stormed the shantytown, shooting "as if they were in the movies."

Elizabeth Latorre Rodriguez, 28, mother of three children, who left her house to buy medicine, was killed in the shooting. There is still a huge blood stain at the intersection of Rio Guadiana and Dieguitas Strects. [passage omitted]

According to an official Carabineros report, the shooting occurred when the policemen arrived at the site, responding to a report of a brawl involving some 30 people.

According to the Carabineros, the people threw stones and blunt objects at the policemen, who asked for support. [passage omitted]

According to the official report, three policemen were injured and five persons were detained. [passage omitted]

FPMR, Police Clash in Concepcion Reported

PY1709013788 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpts] One person was killed, another was arrested, and two security agents were seriously injured as a result of a gun battle between personnel of the National Intelligence Center and presumed members of the Manuel

Rodriguez Patriotic Front in Concepcion. The confrontation took place at 1305 local time, according to an official communique, confirmed by witnesses at the site of the confrontation.

According to the police communique released by the 8th Region Intendancy, the confrontation took place at 1305, on the corner of Carrera and (Lincoyan) Streets, practically in downtown Concepcion. One person was killed, another was arrested, and two agents sustained serious injuries. [passage omitted]

The person killed was identified as Hector Leonardo Ramirez Pino, identity card 6,389,452-4. He may have been a member of the Concepcion branch of the FPMR, although his identity card was issued in Santiago. The arrested person was identified as Jose Luis Herrera Mora, resident of the Baldomero Diaz neighborhood in Lota. He was immediately taken to the Investigative Police. [passage omitted]

The injured policemen, whose identities were not revealed, are a second sergeant and a civilian agent of the National Intelligence Center. The two were taken to the Naval Hospital of Talcahuano, where they underwent surgery for serious injuries. [passage omitted]

In the course of investigations, the residence of the terrorist killed in the confrontation was searched. In this residence, located at 394 Brasil Street, La Americas neighborhood, in (Chinguayan), ammunition and FPMR material and documents were found, according to the official police communique. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Guerrillas Release Kidnapped Soldiers

PA1709004388 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0003 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Report by Claudia Munoz Rocha]

[Text] Twenty-four days after the attack on Saisa in Cordoba Department, the 22 soldiers who had been kidnapped by the FARC's 5th and 18th Fronts, led by Efrain Guzman and Omar Caicedo, and by the Popular Liberation Army were released. The process of releasing the soldiers was kept absolutely secret. At 1100, two helicopters of the Elicol Company arrived at the Voltijeros Battalion camp with Bernardo Echeverria Ossa, attorney general for human rights, and Peace Affairs Adviser Ricardo Santamaria. They remained there for 3 hours and then left with some supplies for San Pedro de Uraba. Reporters of this station flew over the region where the 22 soldiers were released a few minutes after the government delegation did so as not to hinder the release or endanger their lives. After arriving in San Pedro de Uraba, the government delegation went to a nearby mountainous area, where it picked up the soldiers, all of whom are safe and sound. At this time, they are at the Voltijeros Battalion camp in Carepa. The press was not allowed access to the freed soldiers.

Guerrillas To Announce Peace Counterproposal

PA1609222988 Paris AFP in Spanish 2137 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 16 Sep (AFP)—The Colombian guerrilla movement today announced the rebels will make a counterproposal to the peace plan proposed by President Virgilio Barco's Liberal government.

From his guerrilla camp in western Meta Province, Jacobo Arenas, second in command of the FARC, said the guerrillas are studying the government's proposal and will announce a new peace plan very soon.

Arenas spoke on behalf of all the subversive groups comprising the Simon Bolivar National Coordinating Board (CNG). Arenas' statement comes 15 days after Barco publicly announced a peace plan to end rebel violence.

The FARC leader told Caracol, a private radio network, that the guerrilla movement believes the peace plan proposed by Barco "opens the debate for a political solution to the problem of violence in Colombia." [passage omitted]

Arenas said the guerrilla groups will unite in responding to the government's peace proposal with a counterproposal that he believes will be "astounding."

Arenas did not give details on the content of the guerrilla counterproposal, nor did he reveal when it would be announced. He did make it clear, however, that the insurgent groups had not rejected the government's proposal and that they favored holding an early dialogue with the government. [passage omitted]

Violence Erupts in Tumaco; Curfew Imposed

PA1709011388 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0015 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Report by Carmen Elvira Saavedra]

[Excerpts] What seemed to be a peaceful demand by the people of the Pacific port of Tumaco for electricity today ended up as a tragic riot. Although the exact number of dead has not been confirmed, it has been said that 3 are dead and 43 have been injured and are being treated by surgeons at the San Andres regional hospital in Tumaco.

Everything seemed to be very well organized, and it was apparently going to be a peaceful demonstration, but suddenly the demonstrators clashed with law enforcement officers, leading to violent disturbances and many injuries.

Something happened to me as well, but this was because the people were nervous. When the Army tried to verify my press credentials, the demonstrators thought the Army was going to take me away. The demonstrators tried to stop this by throwing rocks at me and the soldiers. I was hit by a stone, but fortunately I was not seriously injured. [passage omitted]

The city mayor's office, the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, the Social Security Institute, the Agrarian Fund, and the Criminal Court were all set on fire. The demonstrators also threw rocks at a police station under construction. [passage omitted]

The people of Tumaco were about to begin an informal ceremony declaring themselves an independent republic when the Army clashed with the people gathered at the square. [passage omitted]

The Army tried to disperse the demonstrators with tear gas, but the people were very angry and became more violent, which led to total chaos in the streets.

We also understand the Tumaco mayor has disappeared. A curfew from 1800 to 0600 has been imposed. [passage omitted]

Peru

All Demonstrations Banned in Lima for 60 Days

PY1709034388 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Marches and rallies are suspended for 60 days, Lima prefect Jorge Bardelli said today. He then added that 74 people have been arrested during the latest such demonstrations.

[Begin Bardelli recording] A group of people who call themselves representatives of SIMA [Maritima Industrial Service], a labor group, came to Lima and caused damage. This is no longer a labor march; this is vandalism. The police had to suppress this, and so yesterday a communique was released, whereby any sort of march or rally is banned while Lima is under a state of emergency. Since Article 4 of Decree 028, which was expanded in Decree 032, empowers the prefecture to grant permission for such demonstrations, all these demonstrations are automatically forbidden as of yesterday. There will be no labor or political marches or rallies for the 60 days the state of emergency is in force. And if the state of emergency is extended, the ban will also be extended. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Ayacucho Residents Protest Economic Measures

PY1709200188 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0513 GMT 16 Sep 88

[Text] Ayacucho, 15 Sep (EFE)—Today the residents of Ayacucho began a 48-hour strike called by the Municipal Assembly of Neighbors to protest the strict economic measures decreed by the Peruvian Government, which has ordered price increases of 150 to 500 percent.

A spokesman for the assembly, which is made up of delegates of the Ayacucho Municipal Council, the university, community organizations, and public and private organizations and enterprises, said that all sectors joined the first day of the strike.

The police reported that a bomb, allegedly hurled by members of the Shining Path terrorist group, exploded today on the Via de los Libertadores Highway, on the outskirts of Ayacucho. The explosion did not cause any damage or casualties.

The Ayacucho residents did not demonstrate during the 1st day of the strike but incidents were reported at the two marketplaces of Ayacucho, where shoppers looted two trucks. One of the trucks had 1,000 kg of potatoes and the other contained bottled soft drinks.

The assembly has announced that tomorrow Ayacucho residents will hold a rally at Ayacucho's main square, where women will bang pots and pans. This rally has not been authorized by the military-political comand of the emergency zone.

Authorities Allow Return of Japanese Fishermen

OW1709052388 Tokyo KYODO in English 0443 GMT 17 Sep 88

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sept. 16 KYODO—Peruvian authorities Friday will allow three Japanese crewmen to return home after being interrogated regarding the collision of their fishing boat with a Peruvian submarine off the coast of Peru last month, according to reports reaching here from Lima.

The three, including the ship's communication chief Fumio Kominato, 49, were among the 16 Japanese crew members aboard the No 8 Kyowa Maru.

Peruvian maritime security officials at Callao near Lima finished interrogating the first three Thursday. They were also through with hearings Friday on another four Japanese crewmen who are soon expected to be granted permission to return to Japan, the reports said.

Tsukasa Okado, the skipper of the 412-ton vessel, and three other crew members will likely be indicted for the accident, but all other crew members are expected to return home soon, the reports said.

The No 8 Kyowa Maru and the 1,870-ton Peruvian submarine Pacocha collided on August 26 about 13 kilometers off Lima, killing three people on the submarine.

There were no reported injuries from the Japanese ship with 21 crewmembers, 16 of them Japanese, aboard.